

The Gift of the Author
to Michel Perroux

Edyane

1790

68.

Alexander, in the midst of his conquests, was reading some ^asecret ¹letters. Ephestion, one of his generals, came near^b, and read with him. The king did not prevent him; and ^{ind-3}only ¹taking his ring, he placed^c the seal on the mouth of his favourite.

"GEORGE 1st," says Dr Johnson, "knew nothing, and ^{art.} desired to know nothing; ^{ind-2}did nothing, and desired to do nothing; and the only good thing that is told of him is, that he wished to restore the crown to its ^{ind-2}hereditary ^{*}successor." ^{* art.}

Do you play at cards? asked GEORGE III. of Horne Tooke. No, Sire, I cannot even tell a king from a knave.

^b s'approcha. ^c posa.

69.

On taking the oath of fidelity to Louis-Philippe in 1830, Talleyrand said, "This is the thirteenth."

"What is a throne?" said NAPOLEON. "Four pieces of ²gilded ¹wood covered with a piece of velvet."

"Dignasse," said one day Louis XV. to the general of that name: "You are getting old^b: Where do you wish to be buried^c?" "Sire, at the feet of your Majesty." This answer rendered the king sad and thoughtful.

^b vieillissez. ^c qu'on vous enterre.

70.

Lord Albemarle being at Aix-la-Chapelle, and not wishing to be known, ordered a negro who ^{Ind-2} served ^{Ind-2} him if they ^{*} asked ^{Ind-2} him who ^{Ind-2} his ^a master ^{Ind-2} was, to say that he was a Frenchman. They did not fail to ^{Ind-2} put ^{de} the question to the black, who replied: "My master is a Frenchman, and so am I."

A dancingmaster asked a friend of his, if it were true that Lord Brougham had been made Lord High Chancellor of England. *He was answered in the affirmative^c.* That ^{Ind-2} astonishes ^{*} me, replied the dancingmaster; what merit then has the King found in this Lord Brougham? For me, I had that man two years in *my^d* hands, and I never could make anything of him.

^b faire. ^c on lui dit que oui. ^d les.

71.

Mr Hume asks Lord John Russell if he has any objection to give a return of the number of times the head porter at the Treasury has sneezed since 1848, distinguishing the sneezes resulting from a cold in the head from those occasioned by mere snuff.

Anecdote of the President of the French Republic.—A few days ago a gentleman called on a coachmaker, and bargained with him for a handsome carriage. "What is your lowest price?"—"3000 francs," replied the coachmaker. "That is not dear," continued the customer. "Dear! Sir." cried the coachbuilder, "but for the re-

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Syntes Square.
1790

ERRATA.

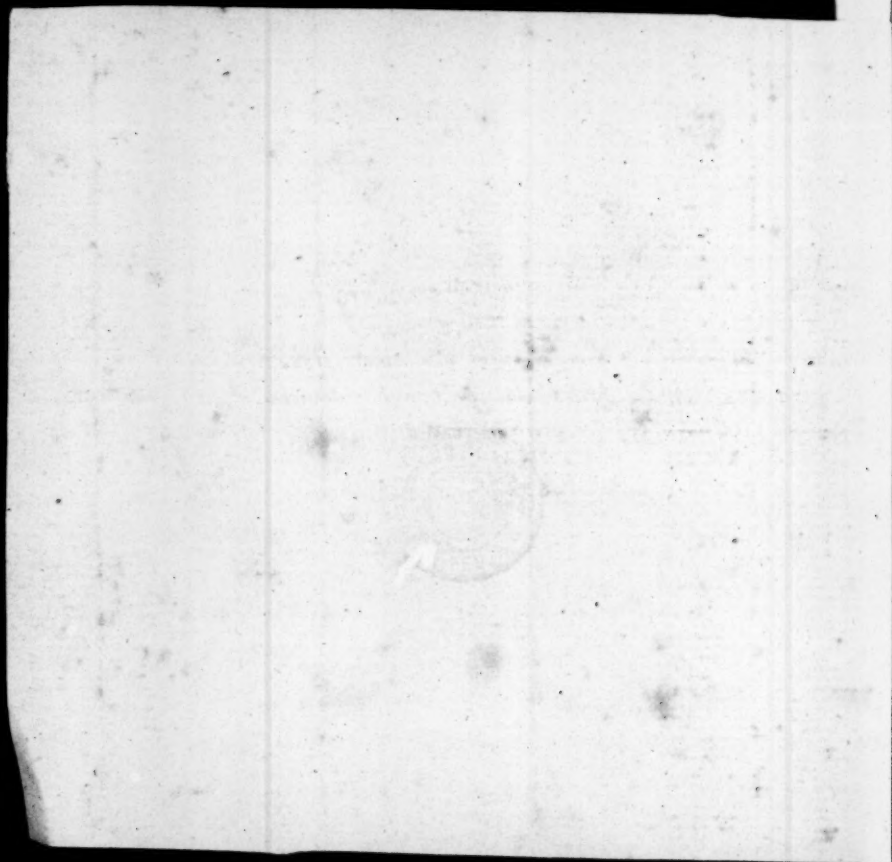
Page 17, line 13, for *essentia* read *essential*.

— 121, — 2, for *aobut* read *about*.

— 141, — 17, for *quereretur* read *quæreretur*.

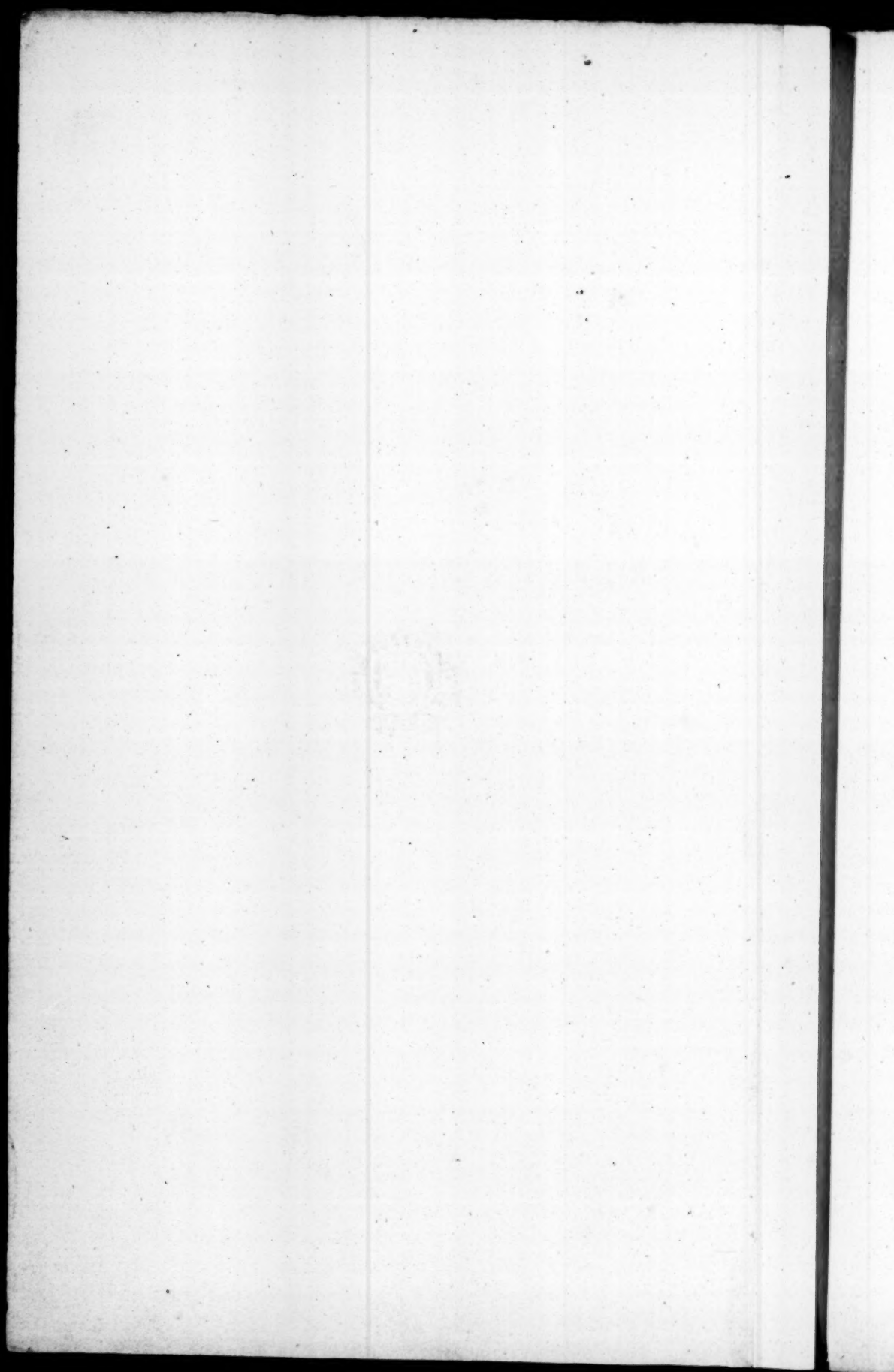
— 209, — 10, for *Viridonicem* read *Viridovicem*.

— 210, — 18, for *dimittat* read *dimittit*.



*The Gift of the Author
to Michl. Pearson
Spital Square.
1790*

A
DISSERTATION
ON THE
ENGLISH VERB.



A
DISSERTATION
ON THE
ENGLISH VERB;

Principally intended to ascertain the precise Meaning of its TENSES, and point out the TENSES of the LATIN and FRENCH VERB which correspond to them; in order to facilitate the Attainment of an accurate Knowledge of those three Languages, and display the superior Excellence of the ENGLISH VERB, with respect to Simplicity, Copiousness, and Perspicuity.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
AN APPENDIX,
ON
FRENCH AND LATIN PARTICIPLES.

By JAMES PICKBOURN,
Master of a Boarding-School at HACKNEY.

"Sermo constat ratione, vetustate, auctoritate, consuetudine."
"Consuetudo verò certissima loquendi magistra." QUINTIL.

— "Si volet usus,
"Quem penes arbitrium est, et jus, et norma loquendi." HOR.

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AND G. KEARSLEY, FLEET STREET.
M DCC LXXXIX.

T O

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

L O R D D O V E R

THIS Dissertation is, with the profoundest Respect, inscribed, as a grateful Acknowledgment of the very polite Attention, and numberless Civilities, with which his Lordship condescended to honour the Author, during his Residence

INSCRIPTION.

dence at the Hague, where he first began this Work; which he now with peculiar Pleasure presents to a Nobleman, whose perfect Knowledge of the Belles Lettres makes him a consummate Judge of the Subject; and whose Love of Literature, and ardent Zeal for the Honour of his Country, will induce him to patronise any Attempt in the least calculated to display the Powers, and support the Reputation, of the English Language.

T H E
P R E F A C E.

ABOUT fifteen years ago,
when I resided at the
Hague, I happened to have some
conversation with a French gen-
tleman on the comparative excel-
lence of the ancient and modern
languages. He praised the strength
and copiousness of the English
language; but remarked, that it
was peculiarly difficult for a fo-

a 3 reigner

reigner to obtain a correct knowledge of it, on account of the multiplicity of tenses belonging to its verbs. He mentioned some of them, as *I loved, I did love, I have loved, I was loving, &c.*; and said he believed that the French, and most other people on the Continent, generally considered them as synonymous expressions: but, for his part, he could not suppose any language, either ancient or modern, had two tenses which meant precisely the same thing. He immediately enumerated the tenses of the French verb, and with great facility and exactness pointed out their different meanings; and concluded with requesting

But it is
certainly
not

ing me to favour him with an explanation of the tenses of the English verb. My situation was not a little embarrassing ; I felt myself unequal to the task, and should have been happy to have declined it : but I was the only Englishman present, and unfortunately I had first introduced the conversation ; I therefore could not help saying something upon the subject. The account I gave, though received with polite attention, did not seem quite satisfactory to the company, and was very far from being so to myself. I should have been mortified in the extreme, if I had not had the consolation to suppose that, in a few
a 4 hours,

hours, I could gain all the information which I wanted, and should soon have an opportunity of introducing the conversation again before the same company. I had got the English Grammars of Greenwood, Lowth, and Priestley, and likewise Harris's *Hermes*; any one of which, I did not doubt, might be consulted as an oracle on the subject. I first took up Lowth, and read with eager expectation till I came to the 121st page, where that excellent grammarian says, "It is not easy to
" give particular rules for the ma-
" nagement of the modes and
" times of verbs with respect to
" one another, so that they may
" be

“ be proper and consistent : nor
“ would it be of much use ;
“ for the best rule that can be
“ given is this very general one—
“ to observe what the sense ne-
“ cessarily requires.” I then laid
down the book (which in other
respects I think a very excellent
one), and applied to Priestley; not
doubting but that his comprehen-
sive, daring mind had grasped
every part of the subject.

I found the tenses of verbs di-
vided by him into *simple* and *com-
pound*; the compound tenses dis-
tributed into three classes, “ac-
“ cording as the auxiliary verbs
“ that constitute them require the
“ *radical form*, the *participle pre-*
“ *sent*,

“ *sent*, or the *participle preterite*, to
“ be joined to them ;” and again
distinguished into “ *single*, *double*,
“ or *triple*, according as *one*, *two*, or
“ *three* auxiliary verbs are made
“ use of.” P. 23.—What I had
expected to see was, an arrange-
ment of the tenses of verbs ac-
cording to their signification ; af-
signing to every one of them a
distinct and separate province, and
directing us how to use them.
But in this he disappointed me,
as much as Lowth had done be-
fore : and though I read the book
through, and got much informa-
tion from it on other subjects, yet
I found myself very little ad-
vanced in that particular kind of
knowledge

knowledge which I wanted to acquire.

I then had recourse to Harris's *Hermes*. His account of time, and his distinction of tenses into perfect and imperfect, seemed to be a good preparation for establishing a general theory of the English verb; but I had soon the mortification to see, that, instead of pursuing the subject, as I hoped he would have done, he refers his readers to Dr. Lowth for more particular information.

Being disappointed by these three great and justly celebrated writers, I began to suspect the subject had never been minutely discussed by any of our grammarians.

rians. However, that I might omit no opportunity which I then had of pursuing the inquiry, I read Greenwood, and looked into several French and Latin grammars, to see how they arranged the English tenses, in their application of them to the tenses of those languages; but none of them furnished me with much critical information on the subject. Among the rest I consulted Chambaud, who, though pretty accurate in his knowledge of the French tenses, and tolerably well acquainted with the English language, expressly asserts, that “many of our tenses are used improperly and misapplied.”

“ miscuouſly to ſignify the ſame
“ idea.”

The reſult of theſe reſearches I confeſs much ſurprized me; for I had before read all theſe authors without ever remarking the deficiency: and I knew that the tenſes of the French verb had been minutely deſcribed by many of their writers. I was not only ſurprized, but chagrined, to find the Engliſh ſo far behind their neighbours in the cultivation of a part of grammar which appeared to me important. I had at firſt bluſhed at my own ignorance, and felt for my own honour: but I now felt for the honour of my country; and thought it degrading to the Engliſh

to

to be so much inferior to other nations in any branch of polite literature *. I therefore immedi-

* The ingenious Dr. Blair, in his Lectures on the Structure of Language, published in 1783, makes the following remark :

“ Few authors have written with philosophical accuracy on the principles of general grammar ; and, what is more to be regretted, fewer still have thought of applying those principles to the English language. While the French tongue has long been an object of attention to many able and ingenious writers of that nation, who have considered its construction and determined its propriety with great accuracy, the genius and grammar of the English, to the reproach of the country, have not been studied with equal care, or ascertained with the same precision. Attempts have been made indeed, of late, towards supplying this defect, and some able writers have entered on the subject ; but much remains yet to be done.”—Vol. i. p. 137.

ately

ately determined to attempt an investigation of the subject. I had made but very little progress in my inquiries, when I discovered that I had not only an unbeaten track to pursue, but that I must, in some instances, go in direct opposition to all our most eminent grammarians; for it appeared to me that English participles might be used either in an active or passive sense, and that they were no more significant of time than adjectives; the contrary of which I knew all our best writers had asserted. When I first entered upon the subject, I thought it a very easy one; but the more I considered it, the more difficult it

it appeared. I had many other engagements, and but little leifure for abftrufe refearches; I therefore quitted the purfuit: and I fhould probably never have returned to it again, had I not, about five years ago, been called upon, in my turn, to produce fome kind of compofition before a literary fociety of which I have the honour to be a member. This appeared to be a favourable opportunity for refuming the fubject; for, though I was afraid to exhibit fo many novel opinions before the public, I thought I might with propriety fubmit them to the confideration of a few felect friends. The reception I met with was fuch as encouraged

raged me to pursue my inquiries; and I read again upon the subject, about two years afterwards, before the same society. The substance of those two Discourses I now venture to lay before the public. How far I have succeeded, that impartial tribunal will determine. I have not the vanity to think that I have discussed the subject so fully as it deserves: but, I hope, I shall be allowed to have made some progress in it; or, at least, that it will be said, "*Magnis tamen excidit ausis.*" And should this little attempt be the means of exciting some person of better abilities, and more leisure, to pursue the inquiry further, and do full

b

justice

justice to the subject, I shall think the pains I have taken in it amply rewarded.

In the prosecution of my design, I thought it would be very useful to contrast the English verb with the verb in other languages; for I have never known any person acquire an accurate knowledge of his mother tongue, who was not acquainted with some other with which he could compare it. The Latin appeared the most important of the ancient languages, and the French the most important of the modern ones: and I thought them peculiarly suited to the purpose, as they are more generally understood than other languages; for,

*They are best
suited for the
purpose
than the
German
and the
Arabic.*

for, in the present age, there are but few British youths, that have had any tolerable education, who are wholly unacquainted with them. I therefore fixed upon these two languages, and have generally pointed out the tenses of them which correspond to the tenses of our own. If any gentleman, duly qualified, would give a comparative view of the verb in the Greek and German, the Italian, Spanish, and some of the Eastern languages, he would, in my opinion, do an important service to the cause of literature.

I had written the greatest part of this Dissertation before I knew that any person, except myself,

had ever supposed participles, in any language, not to be significant of time. But I have since read several grammatical works, which I had not then seen; and have the satisfaction to find that my scheme is in some measure countenanced by the respectable authorities of Sanctius, Vossius, Messrs. de Port Royal, and Dr. Beattie. I therefore present it to the public with more confidence than I should otherwise have done.

Sanctius calls Latin participles “*omnino adjectiva nomina et verbalia* ;” and asserts that they are all four applicable either to past, present, or future time.—Lib. i. cap. 15.

Vossius

Vossius in part adopts his plan, but not wholly. He says, “Participium est vox variabilis per casus, significans rem cum tempore.” But though he seems to consider participles as some way or other significant of time, he allows that three of them are used either to signify past, present, or future time; and, in proof of it, he quotes several of the same authorities which Sanctius had done. He does not assert the same concerning the participle in *rus*, and therefore I suppose he considered that as expressing only future time. —Lib. iv. cap. 10.

Messrs. de Port Royal say, “All participles are adjectives derived

b 3

“from

“from a verb, and express some
“time.” Yet they not only agree
with Vossius, in asserting that three
of them “may express every dif-
“ference of time;” but even seem
much disposed to adopt the opi-
nion of Sanctius respecting the
participle in *rus*, though they
speak of it with some degree of
doubt and uncertainty.—Sect. 4,
chap. 3, book 6.

A reader and
a writer;
but no
thinker, or
understander.

Dr. Beattie, throughout the for-
mer part of his Dissertations, print-
ed in 1784, seems to be an advo-
cate for the common hypothesis,
that participles are significant of
time; but in the latter part he evi-
dently favours the contrary opi-
nion. His assertions appear to me
so

so inconsistent with each other, that, I confess, I do not know how to reconcile them. That I may not misrepresent his sentiments, I will give them to the reader in his own words.

“ The participle denotes a quality, together with a certain modification of time.” — P. 348. To this, at the bottom of the page, he adds the following note: “ This idea of the participle may suffice at present, having been generally adopted by grammarians. But it is not accurate ; nay, it is very inaccurate.”

“ *Doctus, spectatus, probatus*, and many other attributives of the same nature, are participles,

b 4

“ when

“ when they imply any notion of
“ time ; but adjectives, when they
“ denote a quality simply, with-
“ out regard to time.”—P. 349.

“ The participle, so called be-
“ cause it partakes of the nature
“ both of the verb and of the ad-
“ jective ; of the former, by ex-
“ pressing time.”—P. 351.

“ The adjective denotes a sim-
“ ple quality ; the participle, a
“ quality with time.”—P. 363.

“ *He might have read.*—The time
“ is expressed by *might*, *have*, and
“ *read*, conjointly.”—P. 374.

“ *I have answered.*—*I have*, be-
“ ing the present tense, points
“ at time present ; and *answered*,
“ being

“ being the participle of the past,
“ refers to time past.”—P. 389.

“ *I had written*: in which it
“ is observable, that the auxiliary
“ *had*, and the participle *written*,
“ are both significant of past time.”
—P. 398.

Thus, through more than sixty pages together, Dr. Beattie appears to support the common hypothesis, that participles are significant of time. But he afterwards says,

“ By the first participle, *writing*,
“ when joined to a verb of pre-
“ sent time, present action is no
“ doubt signified: but it is signi-
“ fied not by the participle, but
“ by the tense of the verb; for
“ the same participle, joined to a
“ verb

“ verb of a different tense, may
“ denote either past or future ac-
“ tion. We may say not only, *I*
“ *am writing*; but also, *I was writ-*
“ *ing yesterday*, and *I shall be*
“ *writing to-morrow*.”—P. 436.

And in the next page he says,
“ The second, *written*, which I call
“ the passive participle, may be
“ thought to be naturally enough
“ referred to past time, because it
“ expresses complete action; for
“ an action is certainly past when
“ it is completed. But this par-
“ ticiple may, for all that, be re-
“ ferred to present time, and to
“ future, as well as to past. The
“ letter *is now written*; it *was writ-*
“ *ten yesterday*; it *will be written*
“ to-

“ *to-morrow*. Is not the time, in
 “ these examples, signified by the
 “ verbs *is*, *was*, and *will be*, as really
 “ as in the following—The sea is
 “ *now calm* ; it *was calm yesterday* ;
 “ and it *will be calm to-morrow* ?

“ Excepting, therefore, the
 “ Greek participles, which are
 “ more numerous, and perhaps
 “ less understood, than those of
 “ other tongues; may we not,
 “ from what has been said, infer,
 “ that participles, *as expressing the*
 “ *attribute of the verb without affir-*
 “ *mation*, ought to be distinguished
 “ not into those of past, present,
 “ and future time; but into, 1. *Ac-*
 “ *tive* and *imperfect*, which signify
 “ action or condition begun, con-
 “ tinuing,

“tinuing, and unfinished; as, *scribens*, writing; *dormiens*, sleeping:
“2. *Passive and perfect*, which denote action complete; as, *scriptus*, written: and, 3. *Future*, expressive of action, or condition, which is to commence, but has not yet commenced; as, *scripturus*, about to write; *dormiturus*, about to sleep; and, if you please, *scribendus*, about to be written.”—P. 441.

Different parts of this Dissertation were written at times very distant from each other. When I began to revise it, with a view to publication, I found the notes much too numerous, and too long
in

in proportion to the other part. I have, therefore, incorporated some of them with the work itself, and thrown others into an Appendix. Had the whole been written at one time, perhaps it might have been more uniform, and better connected. But these are not the most essential qualities in an undertaking of this nature : for my design has not been to give a complete theory of the verb ; but to discuss such questions as either have not been particularly considered, or (in my humble opinion) have been mistaken by grammarians. Many points, therefore, which are in themselves of great importance,
are

are passed over very briefly, because they have already been so ably treated as to render any farther explanation of them unnecessary.

In the course of this work, I thought it would be useful, in some instances, to notice (what appears to me to be) the errors of other writers; especially of such as are the most eminent and respectable; for new opinions can never be fully received till the authorities by which old ones have been established, are refuted. With this view, I have been particularly attentive to the gram-

So no they { matrical writings of Dr. Priestley;
appear because those works appear to me

most wretchedly mean and of no value whatever. to

to be exceedingly valuable: and therefore the little inaccuracies, which (through haste and inattention, as I humbly conceive) have crept into them, are likely to have a more pernicious influence than much greater mistakes in writers of less celebrity.

Truth, and the reputation of the English language, have been the sole objects of my pursuit: therefore, though my zeal for them has induced me to oppose the opinions of others with great freedom, I have, in all cases, endeavoured to do it with decency and civility. I hope I have, in no instance, given offence. If I have done it, I have done it inadvertently;

advertently ; for I have mentioned no person in the course of this work, whose literary merit I do not highly respect.

Wherever I have erred (many instances of which, I fear, the discerning public will discover) I shall think myself much obliged to any person who will remind me of it with candour : and I shall be no less ready to acknowledge my own mistakes, than I have been to animadvert upon the mistakes of others. For nothing can be more serviceable to the cause of truth and literature, than minute inquiry, liberal communication, and candid debate.

A
DISSERTATION
ON THE
ENGLISH VERB.

THE SIMPLICITY OF THE VERB;
AS IT CONSISTS OF AN INFI-
NITIVE MODE, A PRESENT AND
PRETERITE TENSE, AND TWO
PARTICIPLES.

THE English language has a
remarkable simplicity in the
construction of its Verbs; and at the
same time such a variety, as enables
us to express the various circum-
stances, and modifications of them,
with uncommon precision.

B

The

The verb, in its simple state, only consists of an infinitive mode, a present and preterite tense, and two participles.

The infinitive mode expresses the action, passion, or state denoted by the verb, in a general unlimited manner, without any reference to number, person, or time, as *to read*, *to write*, &c. It has therefore by some grammarians been called the noun, or substantive of the verb; *i. e.* the name of the action, passion, or state signified by it. That it has, in itself, no relation to time evidently appears from the common use we make of it; for we can say, with equal propriety, I was obliged *to read yesterday*, I am obliged *to read to-day*, and I shall be obliged *to read to-morrow*.

The

The English
has no
Infinitive.

The present tense, as *I love, thou lovest*, &c. confines the meaning of the verb to the present time. By present time, is meant any portion of time which includes in it the now, or present instant; or a part of time some of which still remains unexpired; as the present moment, the present hour, the present day, the present year, the present age, &c.

The preterite tense, as *I loved, thou lovedst*, &c. limits the sense of the verb to a certain time past, none of which now remains; as the last hour, yesterday, the first of January, the last year, the last age, the fifteenth century, &c.

Verbs have likewise two participles, one always ending in *ing*, and the other generally in *ed*. The former

4 A DISSERTATION ON

mer of these denotes an imperfect or unfinished action ; and the latter a perfect or finished one : but they are neither of them confined to any time, or voice.

The participle in *ing* has, by some grammarians, been called the participle of the present tense ; but, I humbly conceive, not with strict propriety. For it does not appear to have, in itself, any relation to time : for we can, with equal propriety, say, *I was writing* yesterday, *I am writing* now, or *I shall be writing* to-morrow.

There is a sense in which it may be called the present participle, but none in which it can, with propriety, be called the participle of the present tense or time : for it is equally applicable to all the divisions of time.

It

It denotes the gradual progress, or middle, of an extended action, without any particular regard either to the beginning, or end of it; *i. e.* it represents an action as having already been begun, as being in its progress, or going on, but as not yet finished. Thus, yesterday at ten o'clock, he was *writing* a letter; *i. e.* the action of writing had been begun before that time; was then in its progress, or going on; but was not ended. It may therefore be called the present participle; because it represents an action as being present, *i. e.* performing, or going on, at some particular point of time. But, as that time may either be past, present, or future, it cannot be called the participle of any particular tense. For the word *present* signifies in the presence of, or in company with;

and does not so properly relate to time, as to place. As, in the House of Lords on the 20th of May, twelve bishops were *present*, and fourteen were *absent*. Here neither the words *present* nor *absent* relate to time, but to place. This participle may therefore represent an action as being present at any particular time, or it may represent one action as being present with respect to another action, *i. e.* as being contemporary, or in company with it; but it has not in itself any more concern in ascertaining the time of either of the actions, than an adjective would have, if substituted in the place of it. Thus, when he arrived, he found her *weeping*; or when he arrived, he found her *sorrowful*. If the participle *weeping* be significant of time, why is not the adjective *sorrowful*

ful likewise significant of it? Again, he was *laughing* yesterday, he is *laughing* now, and he will be *laughing* to-morrow: or he was *merry* yesterday, he is *merry* now, and he will be *merry* to-morrow. In these sentences the participle *laughing* is not more expressive of time, than the adjective *merry*. For if the participle *laughing* denotes a present action, *i. e.* an action that is, was, or will be present, or contemporary with something else; *in the very same sense*, the adjective *merry* may be said to denote a present quality, *i. e.* a quality that is, was, or will be present with respect to, or contemporary with, something else. See this point more fully discussed in the Appendix.

It has likewise been called the active participle. But I think this

B 4 name

name is not strictly proper : for it may be used in a passive sense as well as in an active one ; as the house *is building*, or he is building a house ; preparations *are now making*, or they are now making preparations ; the play *is rehearsing*, patents *are preparing*, &c.

The participle in *ed* is generally called the passive participle. But, in reality, it is almost as often used in an active, as in a passive sense : for we can as well say *I have loved*, as *I am loved* ; where *I have loved* is as certainly active as *I am loved* is passive. Even neuter verbs (which never can be used in a passive sense) are possessed of this participle ; as I have *lain*, I have *sitten*, I have *slept*, I have *wept*, I have *risen*, I have *flourished*, I have *walked*, I have *run*, I have *smiled*, I have

have *laughed*, &c. This, I think, an undeniable proof that the participle in *ed* is not always used in a passive sense.

In this respect the French language is exactly similar to ours; for their participle perfect is used either in an active or a passive sense; as *j'ai aimé*, *I have loved*; *je suis aimé*, *I am loved*. Their neuter verbs likewise resemble ours in having perfect participles; as *j'ai couru*, *I have run*; *j'ai dormi*, *I have slept*. And it is worthy to be remarked, that though this participle, when used in a passive sense, is always declined; yet it never is so, when used actively; unless it be preceded by an accusative: for though they say, *Des lettres sont écrites*, letters are *written*; yet they

they say, Nous avons *écrit* des lettres,
we have *written* letters. *

The

* Dr. Priestley, in his Grammar, p. 127, says,
“ It seems not to have been determined by the
“ English grammarians, whether the passive
“ participles of verbs neuter require the auxili-
“ ary *am*, or *have*, before them. The French,
“ in this case, confine themselves strictly to the
“ former.” What does the Doctor here mean
by the *passive* participles of verbs *neuter*? He cer-
tainly does not suppose them to have participles
used in a *passive sense*; for those verbs are inca-
pable of it. I apprehend, he means participles
in *ed*, i. e. perfect participles, or such as signify
the complete state of an intransitive action. His
remark concerning the manner of using the par-
ticiples of French neuter verbs, is certainly not
founded; for most of them are conjugated with
avoir, to have; as, il *a vécu*, he *has* lived; il *a*
reussi, he has succeeded; il *a triomphé*, he *has*
triumphed; elle *a ri*, she *has* laughed; elle *a*
pleuré, she *has* wept; il *a toussé*, he *has* coughed.
Some are formed with *être*, to be; as, il *est*
tombé

The learned Dr. Beattie labours very hard to prove that the perfect participle is always used in a passive sense. But his principal argument depends upon the mistaken supposition, that neuter verbs have not got it. Because Latin neuter verbs, as *dormio*, *sedeo*, &c. have no such participle, he takes it for granted, that English neuter verbs have not. And then asks, "how is this difficulty to be solved? Call the one participle active, and the other passive; and then what is more easy, than to say, that to neuter verbs, which can never be passive, no passive participle can ever belong?" But

tombé, he *is* fallen; il *est* venu, he *is* come. And a few of them are used with both; as, il *est* sorti, he *is* gone out; il *a* sorti, he *has been* out.

I have shewn above, that neuter verbs in English have a perfect participle, as well as others. Therefore this argument is not valid. See his Dissertations, page 440.

He endeavours to remove the objection arising from its being used in forming the compound tenses of the active voice, in the following manner: "If *written* be a passive participle, why do we meet with it in the compound tenses of the active verb; in the preterperfect, *I have written*; in the plusquamperfect, *I had written*; and in the future perfect, *I shall have written*? This question will not appear of hard solution, if we vary a little the order of these auxiliaries. Instead, then, of, *I have written a letter, I had written a letter, and I shall*

“ I shall have written a letter, say,
 “ *I had a letter written, I have a let-*
 “ *ter written,* and, *I shall have a letter*
 “ *written*; an order, which, on some
 “ occasions, and on subjects that ad-
 “ mit a more harmonious phrase-
 “ ology, might be tolerated in verse:
 “ and it will appear that the participle
 “ *written* belongs, not to the nomi-
 “ native *I*, the person *who acts*, but
 “ to the accusative *letter*, the thing
 “ *acted upon*, (or to give it in other
 “ words) the thing which in respect
 “ of the action is *passive*.” Page 437.

If instead of this example, *I have*
written a letter, the professor had
 taken the following one, *I have sent a*
letter to America, he would, I think,
 have seen that his reasoning is not
 conclusive. For though I may be
 said

14 A DISSERTATION ON

said to *have* a letter written, *i. e.* a letter which I have written; yet in what sense can I be said to *have* a letter sent, *i. e.* to *have* a letter which I have sent away, and which is now on the other side of the Atlantic? Or if the example had been, I have returned the book, which I borrowed; in what sense could I be said to *have* the book returned, *i. e.* to *have*, or possess, a book, which has been returned, and which I have no longer in my possession?

The participle in *ed* has likewise been called the participle of the past, or preterite tense. But this name I cannot entirely approve of; for we can say, I *am* loved, I *was* loved, or I *shall be* loved.

I therefore conclude, that, all that is peculiar to the participles is, that
the

the one signifies a *perfect*, and the other an *imperfect* action. The one points to the middle of the action, passion, or state denoted by the verb; and the other to the completion of it. Or, in other words, the one represents an action in its progress, *i. e.* as begun, and going on, but not ended, as *performing*, but not as *performed*: whereas the other denotes an action that is perfect, or complete, an action not that is *performing*, but that is *performed*. These are all the variations which our verbs admit of.

THE COPIOUSNESS OF THE VERB,
ARISING FROM ITS COMPOUND
TENSES.

NOTWITHSTANDING the uncommon simplicity in the construction of our verbs, just now mentioned, yet, by the help of auxiliaries, *i. e.* by combining two or more verbs together, we can express the various circumstances and modifications of actions, with much greater precision in English, than in any other language with which I am acquainted. For by thus uniting the powers of several verbs together, our language is furnished with a very uncommon number of modes and tenses. And, though it has been said, by
some

some grammarians, that many of these are merely synonymous expressions; yet, upon due consideration, I apprehend it will be found, that there is not one, amongst all that variety, to which a proper and distinct province has not been assigned. For though they may, sometimes, be used promiscuously, or substituted one for another, in cases where accuracy is not required; yet, it does not from thence follow, that there is not a real and essential difference in their meaning.

C

TENSES,

TENSES, OR FORMS OF EXPRESSION,
BELONGING TO PRESENT TIME.

IN the indicative mode, we have no less than five present tenses; viz. *I write, I do write, I am writing, I have been writing, I have written.*

There is not more than one tense either in the Latin or the French language, to answer to the three first of these English tenses; and yet they convey to us very different ideas, and, in many cases, cannot, with propriety, be substituted for each other. Whether we want to say, *I write, I do write, or I am writing*, we can only express it by *scribo*, in Latin, and by *j'écris*, in French.

The

The first of these English tenses, viz. *I write*, is an aorist *, or indefinite, of the present time. It has four different significations.

* By an aoristical, or indefinite tense, I mean a tense that cannot be used to point out the precise time of an individual action : and by a definite tense, I mean a tense that signifies a single, or individual action, and is capable of being used in fixing the precise time of it. For though definite tenses do not always ascertain the time of actions (for that is frequently unnecessary), yet they are always capable of doing it ; and require nothing more than the addition of dates to make them actually do it. This is the sense in which I use the word aorist, throughout this dissertation ; and I think it has been used nearly in the same manner by many English writers : nor do I suppose it necessary to determine here, how far it corresponds to the original meaning of the Greek word, from which it is derived.

First, It is used to express general propositions, which are equally true at all times; as, two and two *make* four; the whole *exceeds* a part; the three angles of a triangle *equal* two right angles; virtue *promotes* happiness; vice *leads* to misery.

Secondly, It is employed to denote habits, or repeated actions; as, he *reads* well, but he *writes* badly; when he *walks* out, he *meditates*. In this sense we sometimes apply it even to persons long since deceased; as, Ovid *describes* the tender passions well. Horace *says*, Exegi monumentum ære perennius. For whenever we read these authors, they may be considered as *repeating* to us whatever is contained in their works. Or if any person should say that by the words

words Ovid, Horace, &c. we do not mean the authors themselves, but certain books, which are called by those names; yet these expressions are still reducible to the same rule; for whenever those books are read, they *repeat* to us the propositions contained in them*.

In these two cases the verb is indefinite, both with respect to action, and with respect to time: for it is not confined either to an individual action, or to any precise point of present time.

Thirdly,

* There is another use frequently made of this tense, which, though it does not in all cases coincide with this, is at least very nearly allied to it. I mean the application of it to denote the *manner* of performing actions. Whenever we express present actions simply, without any regard to their qualities, or the manner of

Thirdly, This tense preceded by the words *when, before, after, till, as soon*

performing them, we use a compound tense; as, he *is dancing*, he *is standing*, he *is running*, he *is speaking*, &c. But if we want to declare any thing concerning the qualities of these actions, or the manner of performing them, we use the first present tense, and say, he *dances* gracefully, he *stands* awkwardly, he *runs* well, he *speaks* distinctly, &c. These expressions most commonly refer to the manner in which the person alluded to *generally* acts, and in that case they are fully comprehended in the above rule: for they point out his *habits* of acting. But they are likewise used sometimes to denote the manner of performing *individual* actions. For when speaking of things now going on, under our immediate notice, we say, he *dances* gracefully, he *stands* awkwardly, he *runs* well, he *speaks* distinctly, *i. e.* he is now acting in this manner. And in this case these expressions are not strictly reducible to the same rule; at least they are not properly *aoristical*: for they mean individual actions, and confine them to the present

soon as, &c. is sometimes used to point out the relative time of a future action, *i. e.* to shew a relation, with respect to time, between two subsequent actions, one of which is always expressed in the future tense: as, when he *arrives*, he will hear the news; he will not hear the news, till he *arrives*; he will hear it before he *arrives*, or as soon as he *arrives*, or, at farthest, soon after he *arrives*. The verb *arrives* is here an aorist; for, though it is definite with respect

sent instant. But, as the *manner* of performing actions depends very much upon the *habit* of performing them, we cannot wonder that the same tense should be used in both cases. And perhaps a farther reason for using this form of expression may be, because from the individual act, which comes immediately under our notice, we infer that the person is *accustomed* to act in that manner.

to action, *i. e.* means an individual action ; yet it is indefinite with respect to time, *i. e.* the absolute time of the arrival cannot be ascertained by it.

And, fourthly, in historical narrations, this tense is sometimes substituted for the preterite ; as, he *fight*s and *conquer*s, *takes* an immense booty from his enemies, which he *divides* among his soldiers, and *return*s home in triumph. When it is used in this manner, it is definite : for it refers to some particular point of time, in which those actions were performed *.

The

* In this case nothing is wanted to ascertain the times of the several actions, but dates, which may be easily added, thus : On the tenth of May, 1789, he fights and conquers, takes
an

The second tense, viz. *I do write*, is likewise an aorist, or indefinite of present time, and is used for the same purposes, viz. to express general propositions, or habits, and to supply the place of the preterite, &c. but it differs from the former tense in three respects, and may, perhaps, without much impropriety be said to belong to three different modes.

First, We use it to assert a thing with an extraordinary degree of energy and positiveness; as, *I do love*, *I do write*, &c. This may be called the positive, or energetic mode of speaking.

an immense booty from his enemies, which he divides among his soldiers, that evening, and returns home in triumph, the next morning.

Secondly,

Secondly, It is of peculiar use in negative sentences; as, I *do not* love, I *do not* write; and therefore may be said to constitute a negative mode.

Thirdly, This form is almost universally employed, at least by prose writers, in asking questions; as, *does he love? does he not love?* and may therefore be said to make an interrogative mode.

The third present tense, viz. I *am writing*, may properly be called the present imperfect. It is always definite; for it not only means an individual action, but confines the signification of the verb to the present instant, or now; and implies that the action has been begun, is now going

going on, but is not yet completed *.

The tenses we have hitherto been considering are universally allowed to belong to present time ; but, perhaps, it may be doubted, by some persons, whether the other two, viz. *I have been writing*, and *I have written*, come under the same description or not.

To decide this point, I beg leave to refer to what I mentioned before ; namely, that participles have not in themselves any relation to time ; and

* Verbs signifying a continued energy, or an affection of mind, have no tenses compounded with the participle in *ing*. In these verbs we always express the action, whether definite, or indefinite, by one of the former tenses ; as *I love*, or *do love* : for we never say, *I am loving*. The reason of this will be assigned when we treat of the distinction between perfect and imperfect tenses, in the passive voice.

therefore

therefore the time to which any compound expression belongs must depend solely upon the tense of the auxiliary verb made use of in its composition.

But, that we may not be thought to determine the question by theory only, let us consider the common use which we make of these tenses. We do not say, I *have been* writing at ten o'clock; I *have been* writing yesterday: but we say, I *was* writing at ten o'clock; I *was* writing yesterday. This tense therefore evidently belongs to present time; for though it denotes something past, yet it implies that it passed in a period of time, some part of which still remains unexpired.

This compound expression, *I have been writing*, is of a singular nature,
and

and perhaps cannot easily be translated into other languages. It consists of the verb, *I have*, in the present tense ; which confines the action to present time ; of the imperfect participle, *writing* ; which points to the continuance, or progressive state of it ; and of the perfect participle, *been*, which indicates the completion of, at least, some part of the action ; though it does not determine whether the whole be completed or not. The proper use of this tense is to express an action that has been begun, carried on for some time, and continued to (or at least nearly to) the present instant : but it does not decide, whether it be now finished, or is to be continued longer. If I say, *I have been writing a letter*, I intimate that the letter is just now finished ;

finished; but if I say, *I have been writing two hours*, I leave it undetermined whether the action of writing is to be continued any longer or not. This tense is always definite: for it means a single action, and confines it to the point of time immediately preceding the now, or present instant.

The other tense likewise, viz. *I have written*, as evidently belongs to present time. We do not say, *I have written yesterday*; *I have written* the first of August: but we say, *I wrote yesterday*; *I wrote* the first of August. This tense may properly be called the present perfect, or perfect indefinite. It always expresses a perfect or complete action; but an action that has been completed or perfected in a present time, *i. e.* in the
the

the present day, the present year, the present age, &c. If we speak of the present century, we say, philosophers *have made* great discoveries in the present century ; but if we speak of the last century, we say, philosophers *made* great discoveries in the last century.

This tense, preceded by the words *when, before, after, as soon as, &c.* may be applied to denote the relative time of a future action ; as, when he *has dined*, he will write a letter.

It is always definite with respect to action, *i. e.* it means a single or individual act ; and, in one case, it is definite with respect to time, *i. e.* when it signifies a thing done in the point of time immediately preceding the present instant ; as, *I have just now written a letter.* But in all

other cases it is, with respect to time, *indefinite*; for it only limits the action to a period of time, some of which is not yet expired, without referring to any particular part of that period. For, if I only say, Dr. Priestley *has published* an English grammar, I do not hereby ascertain whether he published it yesterday or thirty years ago.

A learned friend * has remarked,
 “ that this tense may be made use of
 “ when we are speaking of the works
 “ even of authors long since deceased,
 “ provided they be still extant;
 “ but if those works do not remain,

* This remark was made by the Rev. Dr. Kippis, about five years ago, when the author had the honour to read a part of this Dissertation before a literary society, as mentioned in the preface.

“ we

“ we cannot with propriety use it.
 “ We may say, Cicero *has written*
 “ orations ; but we cannot say, Cicero
 “ *has written* poems.” In the first
 instance, by a bold figure, we sup-
 pose Cicero, as it were, still existing,
 and speaking to us in his orations ;
 but as the poems are lost, we cannot
 mention them in the same manner.

This observation may likewise be
 extended to the works of artists. If
 they now exist, they may be ex-
 pressed by this tense ; but if they be
 destroyed, it cannot be made use of.
 In general, this tense may be applied
 wherever the action is connected
 with present time, by the actual ex-
 istence, either of the author, or of
 the work, though it may have been
 performed many centuries ago : but
 if neither the author, nor the work,

D

now

now remains, it cannot be used. Thus, speaking of priests in general, we may say, 'they *have*, in all ages, 'claimed great powers;' because the general order of the priesthood still subsists. But if we speak of the Druids, or any particular order of priests, which does not now exist, we cannot use this tense. We cannot say, 'the Druid priests *have claimed* great powers;' but, 'the Druid 'priests *claimed* great powers;' because that order is now totally extinct.

This tense answers, I believe, precisely to the compound of the present, or perfect indefinite of the French, *J'ai aimé, J'ai écrit*; *I have loved, I have written* *. If we translate

* It is surprising that Chambaud should have paid so little attention to the distinction of English

late it into Latin, it must be by the preterperfect tense. But that tense in Latin likewise answers a very different purpose, and is applicable to past as well as to present time. For *scripsi* signifies not only (indefinitely) *I have written*; but likewise (definitely) *I wrote*, or *I did write*. But this leads us to the consideration of past time.

English tenses, as to say, in his Grammar, p. 145, that *J'ai parlé*, may be translated by *I have spoken*, *I spoke*, *I did speak*, or *I have been speaking*; for it can only be rendered into English by the first of them, except in one very particular case, viz. the French, in speaking of any part of the present day, always use the perfect indefinite, *J'ai parlé*. Whereas the English (I think with much greater propriety) adhere to the general rule in all cases; and, though speaking of the last hour, or even of the last minute, use the preterite definite, *I spoke*. For the last hour, or the last minute, is as completely past, as yesterday, or the last century.

TENSES, OR FORMS OF EXPRESSION,
BELONGING TO PAST TIME.

THE English tenses belonging to past time are five ; *I wrote*, *I did write*, *I was writing*, *I had been writing*, *I had written*. These all relate to a certain time past, no part of which is now remaining.

The two first of these tenses, *I wrote*, and *I did write*, may be distinguished from each other, much in the same manner as the two first present tenses were, viz. *I write*, and *I do write*. *I did write* expresses the action more *positively* than *I wrote*, and is of peculiar use in *negative* and *interrogative* sentences. They both
of

of them signify the same time *, and always denote a perfect or complete action ; and are generally translated into Latin by the preterperfect tense, and into French by the perfect definite : though sometimes, particularly when customs or habits are described, they are translated into both those languages by the preterimperfect tense. They may be used either definitely or indefinitely. When they express habits, and are rendered into Latin and French by the imperfect tense, they are aoristical, or indefinite ; as, ‘ he *wrote* well ’ (*i. e.* was accustomed to write well), ‘ *scribat bene*, ’ ‘ *il écrivoit bien*. ’ ‘ The old

* The difference between these two forms of expression is not properly temporal, but modal. See the remarks on the present tenses *I write*, and *I do write*, p. 25.

‘Romans *governed* by benefits, more
 ‘than by fear; and oftener *forgave*
 ‘than *punished* injuries.’ “Beneficiis
 “magis quam metu imperium *agi-*
 “*tabant*; acceptâ injuriâ ignoscere,
 “quam persequi, *malebant.*” *Sallust.*
 ‘Ils *gouvernoient* par des bienfaits,
 ‘plutôt que par la crainte; et ils *par-*
 ‘*donnoient* les injures, plus souvent
 ‘qu’ils ne les *punissoient.*’ These verbs
 do not denote individual acts, but
 habits, and are, therefore, aoristical.

But this is by no means the prin-
 cipal use of the English tenses now
 under consideration. They are much
 more commonly applied to signify
 particular actions, and ascertain the
 precise point of time in which they
 were performed: as, ‘he *wrote* the
 ‘letter on the first of August, but I
 ‘did not receive it till the tenth of No-
 ‘vember;’

And I

received

it on the tenth of "

'vember;' 'he *built* the house last summer, but he *did not inhabit* it till 'Christmas;' 'he *came* home at six 'o'clock.' Nor indeed has our language any other tense by which the perfect action, of past time can be expressed *definitely*.

This is a point in which I have many very respectable authorities against me. I shall, therefore, attempt a more minute discussion of it, than I should otherwise have thought necessary. In order to do this, I shall first make a few general remarks concerning the nature of aorists; and then take notice of what has been said upon this subject by some of our most eminent grammarians, and endeavour to support the opinion which I have here ventured to advance. The principal difficul-

"and 5
inhabited
it at
Christmas"

ties seem to me to arise from authors not properly defining the terms they make use of, and from their supposing aoristical propositions to be always expressed by tenses exclusively appropriated to them; and, consequently, that a tense which is, upon any occasion, used indefinitely, must always be used so.

By an aoristical, or indefinite tense, is generally meant a tense which cannot be used in ascertaining the precise time of an individual action; and, by a definite tense, is meant one that is capable of being applied to that purpose. See the note, p. 19.

There are three sorts of aoristical propositions.

First, Such as are indefinite both with respect to action and to time; as, '*wisdom excels folly*;' '*sometimes*
' he

'he *works*, but he oftener *plays*.' For these verbs neither mean individual acts, nor are limited to any precise point of time.

Secondly, Propositions may be aoristical with respect to action, though definite with respect to time; as, 'when she first appeared upon the stage she *danced* elegantly, but she *did not sing* well.' The time is here precisely defined, but the verbs do not denote individual acts, but habits.

Thirdly, Propositions may be aoristical with respect to time, and definite with respect to action; as, 'Mr. Horne Tooke *has published* an excellent grammatical work, called, The *Diversions of Purley*.' The compound tense, *has published*, means a single or individual act; it is, therefore, in that respect definite; but it
neither

Leave out
the negative
"she
sung
well"

neither ascertains the *time* when the book was published, nor is *capable* of doing it. If it be necessary to fix the date of the publication, we must change the tense; for we cannot say that, 'he *has published* it in 1786;' but that, 'he *published* it in 1786.' It is, therefore, *indefinite* with respect to *time*.

The human mind is capable of viewing the same action in such a variety of attitudes, that no language, however copious, can appropriate separate expressions to them all. The same tense, or form of expression, must, therefore, necessarily be applied to different purposes. This is particularly the case with respect to aoristical propositions. For scarcely any language has assigned them tenses adequate to their number. The Latin

tin language has no tenses particularly adapted to this purpose; the French has one, viz. that called the perfect indefinite, *j'ai écrit*; and the English language has three, viz. *I write, I do write, and I have written.*

Aoristical propositions belonging to present time are expressed in English by *I write, or do write*; in Latin by *scribo*; and in French by *j'écris*.

Propositions relating to past events, if *aoristical with respect to action*, are expressed in Latin and French by the *preterimperfect* tense, *scribebam, j'écrivois*; and in English by the *preterperfect* tenses, *I wrote, or did write*. But if the verbs mean *individual actions*, and consequently are *aoristical only with respect to time*, they are expressed in Latin by the *preterperfect* tense, *scripsi*;
in

in French by the *perfect indefinite*, *j'ai écrit*; and in English by the tense exactly corresponding to it, *I have written*.

Aoristical propositions belonging to future time are expressed in Latin by *scribam*; in French by *j'écrirai*; and in English by *I shall*, or *will write*. For none of these languages has any future tense particularly adapted to the purpose.

The same tense, or form of expression, may, therefore, in one connexion be *definite*, and in another *aoristical*. Whenever a verb is so circumstanced as to become *incapable*, with the assistance of adjuncts, of fixing the time of an individual action, it is *indefinite*, and, when it is *capable* of doing it, it is *definite*.

Mr. Harris says, in his *Hermes*,

p. 123,

p. 123, "It seems agreeable to reason,
 "that *wherever time is signified with-*
 "out any farther circumscription, than
 "that of simple present, past, or fu-
 "ture, the tense is an aorist." This
 definition, I humbly conceive, is not
 expressed with sufficient precision.
 For, according to it, every proposi-
 tion not attended with a date is aorist-
 ical. My definition does not extend
 the name to all *undated* propositions,
 but limits it to such expressions as
 are *incapable* of receiving a date, and
 of being used in ascertaining the
 precise time of an individual action.
 And, from the examples which the
 learned author produces, I think he
 did not mean to extend it farther.

In the 148th page of the same
 work he says, "As to the English
 "tongue, it is so poor, as to admit no
 "variation

“ variation for modes, and only one
 “ for time, which we apply to express
 “ an aorist of the past. Thus from
 “ *write* cometh *wrote*; from *give*,
 “ *gave*; from *speak*, *spake*, &c.” In
 a note at the bottom of page 125, he
 adds, “ The *Latin* tongue appears to
 “ be more than ordinarily deficient as
 “ to the article of *aorists*. It has no
 “ peculiar form even for an *aorist* of
 “ the past, and, therefore (as *Priscian*
 “ tells us), the *præteritum* is forced to
 “ do the double duty both of *that aor-*
 “ *ist*, and of the *perfect present*, its
 “ application in particular instances
 “ being to be gathered from the con-
 “ text.” And, in support of this
 hypothesis, he translates *vidi* by “ *I*
 “ *have just seen it*” (supposing it to be
 the *perfect present*), and by “ *I saw it*
 “ *once*” (supposing it to be an *aorist*
 of

of the past). With great deference to such high authority, I humbly conceive that *vidi* may be translated, *indefinitely*, by *I have seen it* (*i. e.* some time or other during a long life of, perhaps, fourscore years); or it may be rendered, *definitely*, by *I saw it* (*i. e.* at ten o'clock this morning, or in the year 1720).

Bishop Lowth, in his Introduction to English Grammar, p. 62, advances the same opinion, for he refers, *I loved*, to *indefinite*, or undetermined time; and, *I have loved*, to *definite*, or determined time. And, in this, I believe, these two great men have been implicitly followed, by most, if not all grammarians, who have written since they published those works*. It, therefore, becomes me to

* I suspect that some grammarians have adopted

to speak with great diffidence. Yet, I cannot help thinking that I have

adopted this opinion, because they have supposed that the tenses, called *aorists* by the Greeks, are never used but in *indefinite* propositions; and have observed, that they are sometimes translated by our *preterite definite*. But, if the definition which I have given of an *aorist* be just, those tenses, though called *aorists* by way of eminence, are sometimes used *definitely*: and, though they may be the principal, yet they are not the only *Greek* tenses which are used *indefinitely*. But this does not properly belong to my subject. My present business is, only to investigate the general nature of *aoristical* propositions, and ascertain the tenses by which they are expressed in *Latin*, *French*, and *English*. Indeed, it does not appear to me to be of any great consequence, whether we use the term *aorist* precisely in the same sense in which the Greeks used it, or not. All that seems necessary is, that we should affix a clear and distinct idea to it, and always apply it in the same manner.

sufficiently

sufficiently proved above, that, *I loved, I wrote, &c.* are generally used *definitely*; and, *I have loved, I have written, &c.* generally used *indefinitely*, with respect to *time*. But perhaps it may give some additional weight, to what has been before said, to remark, that *j'aimai, j'écrivis, &c.* (which by all French grammarians are called *definite*) can be translated into English in no other way, than by, *I loved, or did love; I wrote, or did write*: and that *j'ai aimé, j'ai écrit, &c.* (which the French call *indefinite*) can only be rendered into English by, *I have loved, I have written, &c.* And *scripsi* (when *definite*) is always translated by, *I wrote, or did write*, and (when *indefinite*) by, *I have written*.

The compound tense, *I have written*, is so perfectly *aoristical* that, like

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the *Greek aorists*, it may be applied not only to *past*, but even to *future* actions: as, 'I shall send the letter as soon as *I have written it.*' 'When he *has acquired* a fortune by his industry, and *has purchased* a good estate, he will retire into the country, and build himself a house. But as soon as he *has built* it, and perhaps before he *has furnished* it, or, at farthest, soon after he *has arranged* his gardens in proper order, and *has fully completed* his plan, he will be weary of an inactive life.'

Lord Monboddo seems to use the words *aorist*, and *indefinite*, in a sense rather different from that in which they are commonly understood. He says, vol. ii. p. 126, "Indefinite means, that it is not determined, by the expression, whether it be
" perfect,

“ perfect, or imperfect; that is, completed, or not completed, at the time that is mentioned by the speaker.” He therefore adds, p. 130, “ *I wrote, or did write, is* clearly an aorist, as it is called by all the grammarians, expressing simply that the action is past, without expressing whether it was, or was not, a complete or perfect action, at that time.” Again, p. 138, his Lordship observes, “ I cannot say, *I have built a house last year; I have played a tune yesterday*: but I must use the aorist, and say, *I built the house last year, and played the tune yesterday.*” Whatever the word *aorist* means, whether it signifies undetermined with respect to time, or to the completion of the actions, I humbly conceive, his Lord-

ship here applies it in an improper manner; for the words, *I built*, and *I played*, not only denote that the actions were *complete*, or finished; but likewise refer them to certain fixed periods of *time*; the one to the *last year*, and the other to *yesterday*.

Dr. Beattie says, p. 388, " That
 " there is an *aorist of the past*, is
 " easily proved. The Greek verbs,
 " and the English too, have a parti-
 " cular form to express it, without
 " the aid of auxiliary words. *Egrapsa*,
 " *I wrote*, or *I did write*, denotes,
 " that the action of writing is *past*,
 " but refers to no particular period
 " of past time. When I say, He
 " *sent* me a letter and I *answered* it,
 " both *sent* and *answered* are aorists,
 " and point at past time indefinitely:
 " the

“ the letters spoken of may, for any
 “ thing that appears in the sentence,
 “ have been written and sent a year
 “ ago, or twenty years ago, or last
 “ summer, or last week, or yesterday ;
 “ for the tenses refer to no one por-
 “ tion of past time more than another.
 “ —But if I say, He *sent* me a letter,
 “ and I *have answered* it, the verb,
 “ *he sent*, is an aorist ; but *I have an-*
 “ *swered*, is not an aorist ; for it
 “ points at past time more definitely,
 “ and means, that I answered it *just*
 “ *now*, or *lately*.”

I humbly conceive, that the above-
 mentioned tenses, *I wrote*, or *did*
write, *he sent*, and *I answered*, are
 not aorists. They are not only *ca-*
pable of being used in ascertaining
 the precise *time* of those actions, but
 they are the only tenses which are
capable of it ; and, whenever they

are used, they have a reference to some period of time which, if not expressed, is always understood. The sentence, *He sent me a letter, and I answered it*, cannot, I presume, be introduced with propriety, unless circumstances be added, to ascertain, at least in some degree, the time when those actions were performed. Whenever we want to point out the precise time in which any thing was done, we always use these tenses: we do not say, 'He *has sent* me a letter on the 3d of March, and I *have answered* it the next day:' but we say, 'He *sent* me a letter on the 3d of March, and I *answered* it the next day.'—In the other sentence, "*He sent me a letter, and I have answered it;*" *he sent* is definite, and *I have answered* is *arbitrary*,

ristical, or *indefinite*. He *sent* must mean at some particular time, either expressed, or understood; as, 'He *sent* it at Christmas, or on the 10th of January, and *I have answered* it,' i. e. some time or other since I received it. But the precise day of answering it cannot be specified, without using another tense: we cannot say, 'I *have answered* it the next day, or, I *have answered* it the 1st of February;' but we must necessarily use a different tense, and say, 'I *answered*, or, I *did answer* it the next day, or the 1st of February.' The only case in which the expression, *I have answered*, can be used definitely, is, when it refers to a point of time immediately preceding the present instant; as, 'I *have just now answered* it.' For if we want to assert, that

E 4

the

*I have this
moment
answered
it.*

the answer was given at any other particular point of time, even if it was only yesterday, or at 10 o'clock this morning, we must not say, 'I *have answered*,' but, 'I *answered* it yesterday, or at 10 o'clock.' I therefore conclude that the professor has mistaken both cases, and that the reverse of his propositions is true, viz. *I wrote, I did write, he sent, and I answered*, are not aorists; and that, *I have answered*, is an aorist*.

Perhaps

* Dr. Blair says, in one of his celebrated Lectures on the Structure of Language, vol. i. p. 161, "The tenses of the verb are contrived to imply the several distinctions of time. Of these I must take some notice, in order to show the admirable accuracy with which language is constructed. We think, commonly, of no more than the three great divisions of time, into the past, the present,
" and

Perhaps the following example may set this affair in a still clearer light.

“and the future: and we might imagine, that
 “if verbs had been so contrived as simply to
 “express these, no more was needful. But
 “language proceeds with much greater subtilty. It splits time into its several moments.
 “It considers time as never standing still, but
 “always flowing; things past, as more or less
 “perfectly completed; and things future, as
 “more or less remote, by different gradations.
 “Hence the great variety of tenses in most
 “tongues.”

This introduction to the theory of tenses, from a writer of such eminence, raised my expectations very high. It is immediately followed by,

“The present may, indeed, be always considered as one indivisible point, susceptible of
 “no variety. *I write*, or, *I am writing*, SCRIBO.”

I do write, might here have been introduced; and an intimation might have been given, that the tenses *I write*, *I do write*, and *I am writing*, are all three very different in their signification.

light. If we speak of a person now living, we may say, ' In the course
' of

tion. The author proceeds: " But it is not
" so with the past. There is no language so
" poor but it hath two or three tenses to ex-
" press the varieties of it. Ours hath no fewer
" than four. 1. A past action may be confi-
" dered as left unfinished; which makes the
" imperfect tense, *I was writing, scribebam.*
" 2. As just now finished. This makes the
" proper perfect tense, which, in English, is
" always expressed by the help of the auxiliary
" verb, *I have written.* 3. It may be confi-
" dered as finished some time ago; the parti-
" cular time left indefinite. *I wrote, scripsi;*
" which may either signify, *I wrote yesterday,*
" or *I wrote a twelvemonth ago.* This is
" what grammarians call an aorist, or an in-
" definite past. 4. It may be considered as
" finished before something else, which is also
" past. This is the plusquamperfect. *I had*
" *written; scripseram. I had written before I*
" *received his letter.*"

Three tenses are here omitted; *I did write;*
I have been writing; I had been writing. The
preter-

‘ of the last forty years he *has writ-*
 ‘ *ten* many letters, essays, and trea-
 ‘ tises,

preterimperfect tense, *I was writing*, is represented as signifying a past action *left* unfinished. That tense denotes the middle, or progressive state, of a past action; *i. e.* represents it as begun, going on, but not ended, at a certain time past; but it gives no intimation of the action’s being *left* before its completion. *I wrote yesterday*, and, *I wrote a twelvemonth ago*, are both *definite* expressions; for they mean *individual* acts, and specify the *time* when they were performed; and therefore cannot with propriety be called *aorists*.

To this distribution of tenses the learned professor subjoins the following remark.

“ Here we observe, with some pleasure, that
 “ we have an advantage over the Latins, who
 “ have only three varieties upon the past time.
 “ They have no proper perfect tense, or one
 “ which distinguishes an action just now
 “ finished, from an action that was finished
 “ some time ago. In both these cases they
 “ must say, *scripsi*. Though there be a mani-
 “ fest difference in the tenses, which our lan-
 “ guage

‘tises, on various subjects; some of
 ‘which he *has printed* in separate
 ‘volumes; others he *has published* in
 ‘magazines; a few *have appeared* in
 ‘newspapers; but he *has destroyed*,
 ‘by far, the greatest part of them.’

“guage expresses, by this variation, *I have*
 “*written*, meaning, I have just now finished
 “writing; and, *I wrote*, meaning at some for-
 “mer time, since which other things have in-
 “tervened. This difference the Romans have
 “no tense to express; and, therefore, can only
 “do it by a circumlocution.”

The compound tense, *I have written*, does
 not necessarily mean, I have just now finished
 writing. The expression most proper to be
 used in that case is, *I have been writing* a let-
 ter. For the expression, *I have written* a let-
 ter, does not limit the action to any particular
 point of time; it only means, I have done it
 some time or other during my life. The La-
 tin preterperfect tense, *scripsi*, is so vague and
 indeterminate in its meaning, that it may be
 translated by, *I have been writing*, *I have*
written, *I wrote*, or *I did write*.

Here

Here the tenses, *he has written, has printed, has published, have appeared, has destroyed*, are all *indefinite*. They do not point out the precise *time* in which any of these things were done; nor *can* they be made use of for that purpose. If it be necessary to ascertain the dates of the several facts mentioned, we must use the definite tenses, *he wrote, or did write, he printed, he published, they appeared, he destroyed, &c.* We must say, ‘*he wrote a book in 1750, and printed it in 1752.*’ ‘*He wrote an essay in the month of May 1759, but he did not publish it till the August following,*’ &c.

Here it may be objected, that when we ascribe the same actions to a person deceased, we use a different tense, and say, ‘*In the last forty*
‘*years*

' years of his life he *wrote* many
 ' letters, essays, and treatises, on va-
 ' rious subjects; some of which he
 ' *printed* in separate volumes; others
 ' he *published* in magazines; a few
 ' *appeared* in newspapers; but he *de-*
 ' *stroyed*, by far, the greatest part of
 ' them.' And it may be added,
 that the dates of the several actions
 are not more determined in this, than
 in the former case. This is acknow-
 ledged. But the difference is, that
 in one case the tenses are *capa-*
ble of ascertaining the dates, and in
 the other they are *not capable* of it.
 In the latter instance, the precise
 time of every action *may* be specified
 by only adding the date, without
 changing the tense of the verb, but
 in the former it *cannot*.

The third of the past tenses, viz.

I was

I was writing, is strictly and properly a preterimperfect tense. It is always definite, and means, that the action was performing at a certain time past, *i. e.* it had been begun before, and was then going on, but was not finished. And it has this peculiar advantage attending it, that it is never used in any other sense: whereas, the French and Latin preterimperfect tenses, by which it must always be translated, are frequently applied to other purposes*.

The

* The Latin preterimperfect tense is used for two purposes, the first and principal of which is to signify the progressive state of a past action, *i. e.* to denote that it was begun, going on, but not ended, at a certain time past; and the second to express habits or customs. In the first of these cases it very nearly corresponds to the English preterimperfect tense. I believe there is no instance in which
the

The fourth past tense, viz. *I had been writing*, has no tense corresponding

the latter must not necessarily be translated by the former. But there are some instances in which the Latin preterimperfect tense (though used to denote an action begun, going on, but not ended) cannot be translated by ours. For English verbs, which do not admit of the distinction between the perfect and imperfect state of an action, have no tenses compounded with the participle in *ing*. The preterimperfect tense, therefore, of Latin verbs signifying an affection of the mind, cannot be rendered into English by our preterimperfect tense. For *amabam* can never be translated by *I was loving*, nor *timebam* by *I was fearing*. The Latin preterimperfect tense is likewise, in a few other instances, used to express continued energy, where our preterimperfect tense cannot be admitted. As

"Ossa *tegebat* humus. OVID.

"Arboriæ frondes auro radiante nitentes

"Ex auro ramos, ex auro poma *tegebant*. ID.

"Eum tenuis glauco *velabat* amictu

"Carbasus, et crines umbrosa *tegebat* arundo."

VIRGIL.

These

sponding to it, either in Latin or French. It is always definite, and signifies,

These verbs, *tegebat*, *velabat*, &c. when applied, as they are here, to inanimate objects, which are incapable of acting, do not so properly signify actions as the continued state of things, or the continuance of the effects of certain actions. Or, if they must be allowed to represent actions, they represent such actions as no sooner exist than they exist in a complete state; and, therefore, cannot be translated by our preterimperfect tense: for that tense is not usually applied to any other purpose than that of expressing the middle, or progressive state of an extended action. In describing unfinished actions, *i. e.* actions in their progressive state, we say, the man was clothing himself, or he was covering the bones with earth. But in representing the effects of these actions in their finished state, we cannot translate, *carbafus velabat*, by *canvas was clothing him*; nor *offa tegebat humus*, by *earth was covering the bones*. But we must say, *canvas clothed*, the earth *covered*, &c. And though, when representing the state of a building during

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the

signifies, that the action had been begun, carried on for some time, and
con-

the time of its erection, we may say, 'the work-
'men *were covering* it with lead,' &c. yet, when speaking of the same building afterwards, we cannot say, 'it *was covering* an acre of ground,' but, 'it *covered* an acre of ground.'

But, besides this use of the Latin preterimperfect tense, it is likewise frequently applied to denote habits or customs. For as habits arise from the frequent repetition of actions, and as actions continually repeated differ but little from continued actions, *i. e.* actions in their progressive or imperfect state, we cannot wonder that the same tense should be made use of in both cases. As this use of the Latin preterimperfect tense has not been so commonly taken notice of as the other, perhaps it may be agreeable to some readers to see a few authorities for it.

"*Formabat* puerum dictis, et, sive *jubebat*,

"*Ut facerem* quid ; habes auctorem quo facias hoc,

"*Unum ex* iudicibus selectis *objiciebat*." HORACE.

"*In* hora sæpe ducentos

"*Ut magnum* versus *dictabat* stans pede in uno." ID.

"*Noctes*

continued to a certain past period ;
but does not decide whether it was
then finished or not.

The

“ Noctes *vigilabat* ad ipsum

“ Mane, diem totum *stertebat*.” HORACE.

“ Ingenium nemo sine corpore *exercebat*.

“ Optimus quisque facere quam dicere ; sua

“ ab aliis benefacta laudari, quam ipse aliorum

“ narrare *malebat*. Igitur domi militiæque bo-

“ ni mores *colebantur*. Concordia maxima,

“ minima avaritia *erat*. Jus bonumque apud

“ eos non legibus magis quam naturâ *valebat*.

“ Jurgia, discordias, simultates cum hostibus

“ *exercebant* ; cives cum civibus de virtute *cer-*

“ *tabant*.” SALLUST.—“ Jam tum illis tem-

“ poribus fortius boni pro libertate *loquebantur*

“ quam *pugnabant*.” NEPOS.

“ Aurea prima sata est ætas, quæ vindice nullo

“ Sponte suâ sine lege fidem rectumque *colebat*.

“ Poena metusque *aberant* : nec verba minacia fixo

“ Ære *legebantur* : nec supplex turba *timebant*

“ Judicis ora sui.”

OVID.

“ Ver erat æternum, placidique tepentibus auris

“ *Mulcebant* Zephyri natos sine semine flores.

“ Mox etiam fruges tellus inarata *ferebat* :

“ Nec renovatus ager gravidis *canebat* aristas.

The fifth tense belonging to past time, viz. *I had written*, answers to

"Flumina jam lactis, jam flumina nectaris *ibant* :

"Flavaque de viridi *stillabant* ilice mella." OVID.

"Tempora *cingebat* de qualibet arbore Phœbus." ID.

"Post, ubi pericula virtute propulerant, sociis atque amicis auxilia *portabant*; magisque dandis, quam accipiendis, beneficiis, amicitias *parabant*; imperium legitimum, nomen imperii regium *habebant*; delecti, quibus corpus annis infirmum, ingenium sapientia validum erat, reipublicæ *consultabant*. Hi, vel ætate, vel curæ similitudine, patres *appellabantur*."

SALLUST.

Here it should be observed, that it is not merely the repetition of actions, however frequent, that warrants the use of this tense; but such a repetition of them as implies habit. For when there is any thing in the sentence which seems to represent them as separate acts, and ascertain any thing respecting the number of them, though that number be ever so great, the preterperfect tense is generally used. As,

"Plus millies jam *audiui*."

TERENCE,

"*Implevi*

to *scripseram* in Latin, and to *j'avois*

" *Implevi* clamore vias; mœstusque Creusam

" Nequicquam ingeminans iterumque iterumque *vocavi*." VIRGIL.

" Mille domos *adiere*, locum, requiemque petentes :

" Mille domos *clausere* seræ." OVID.

" Sæpe pater *dixit* : generum mihi, filia, debes.

" Sæpe pater *dixit* : debes mihi, nata, nepotes. ID.

" Scilicet hoc fuerat, propter quod sæpe relictâ

" Coniuge, per montem adversum, gelidasque *cucurri*

" Esquilias." JUVENAL.

" Quod antea tibi sæpe *significavi*." CICERO.

" Quod, si sæpe *dictum est*, dicendum tamen

" est sæpius." ID.

" Sæpenumero P. C. multa verba in hoc or-

" dine *feci* : sæpe de luxuriâ, atque avaritiâ

" nostrorum civium *questus sum*." SALLUST.

The French preterimperfect tense not only serves the same purposes to which the Latin is applied, *i. e.* denotes the progressive or unfinished state of an action, and expresses habits ; but is likewise used, in conditional sentences, to signify present time ; as, ' S'il *P'aimoit*, il l'*'é-*
' *pouferoit*.' ' If he loved her, he would marry
' her.'

or *j'eus écrit* in French*. It denotes that the action was completed, before a certain time past; which time is usually pointed out by some other verb; as, 'I had written the letter when he entered.'

* If the leading or principal verb in the sentence be in the pluperfect tense, the French use the compound of the imperfect, *j'avois écrit*; but when the verb in the pluperfect tense only serves to point out circumstances attending the chief action, they use the compound of the perfect definite, *j'eus écrit*. e. g. 'J'avois écrit la lettre quand il entra;' 'I had written the letter when he entered.' 'Quand j'eus écrit la lettre il entra;' 'when I had written the letter he entered.' In the former sentence, the writing of the letter seems to be the principal action, and the entrance of the person only points out the time. But, in the latter sentence, the entrance of the person seems to be the principal action, and the writing of the letter only marks the circumstance of time.

TENSES

TENSES BELONGING TO FUTURE
TIME.

THERE are no less than eight future tenses, *i. e.* forms of expression signifying future time. Four of them, *I shall write, I will write, I shall be writing, I will be writing*, express future time in a simple manner. And, though they are very different in their meaning, they can only be translated into Latin by *scribam*, and into French by *j'écrirai*. The other four, *I shall have been writing, I will have been writing, I shall have written, I will have written*, denote future time in

a complex manner, *i. e.* as antecedent to a certain future period pointed out by some other verb, or clause of the sentence. And though they convey to the mind ideas which are easily distinguished from each other, yet they can only be translated into Latin by *scripsero*, and into French by *j'aurai écrit*.

The two first simple future tenses express the completion of an action either *definitely* or *indefinitely*: definitely; as, 'I shall or will write a letter to-morrow:' indefinitely; as, 'I shall employ my time agreeably; for sometimes I shall write, and sometimes I shall read, and at other times I shall walk out and meditate.'

The third and fourth simple future tenses always denote the *incomplete* or unfinished state of an action, *definitely*;

definitely; as, 'I *shall* or *will* be *writing* at three o'clock.'

The two first complex future tenses denote the *continuance* of an action to a certain future time; as, 'He *will have been writing* three hours *'before the messenger arrives.'* 'At *'twelve o'clock I shall have been writing* three hours.'

The two last complex future tenses express the *completion* of an action before a certain future time; as, 'He *shall* or *will have written* the letter *'before ten o'clock.'*

Shall and *will* always mean the same time. The difference, therefore, between the expressions compounded with *shall*, and those compounded with *will*, is more properly modal than temporal. It is thus ascertained by Bishop Lowth: "*Will*,
" in

“ in the first person singular and
 “ plural, promises or threatens; in
 “ the second and third persons, only
 “ foretels: *shall*, on the contrary, in
 “ the first person, simply foretels;
 “ in the second and third persons,
 “ promises, commands, or threatens.
 “ But this must be understood of
 “ explicative sentences; for when
 “ the sentence is interrogative, just
 “ the reverse for the most part
 “ takes place. Thus, ‘ I *shall* go,’
 “ ‘ you *will* go,’ express event only:
 “ but, ‘ will you go?’ imports inten-
 “ tion; and ‘ *shall* I go?’ refers to
 “ the will of another. But again,
 “ ‘ he *shall* go,’ and ‘ *shall* he go?’
 “ both imply will, expressing or re-
 “ ferring to a command. *Would*,
 “ primarily denotes inclination of
 “ will; and *should*, obligation: but
 “ they

“they both vary their import, and
“are often used to express simple
“events*.”——*Introduction to English
Grammar*, p. 64.

* All our future tenses are *infinitives*, governed by the auxiliary verbs *shall* or *will*. If, therefore, a more particular account of the difference of these tenses be desired, see the Infinitive Mode.

THE PASSIVE VOICE.

THE passive voice is formed by uniting participles with the auxiliary verb *to be*: and in all its tenses imitates the Latin verb, in marking the distinction between the perfect and imperfect state of an action.

Present time.

The house is	}	Domus ædifica-
building.		tur.

The house is	}	Domus ædificata
built.		est.

The house has	}	_____
been building.		

The house has	}	Domus ædificata
been built.		est.

Past

Past time.

The house was } Domus ædifica-
building. } batur.

The house was } Domus ædificata
built, *i. e.* at a } est.
certain time past. }

The house was } Domus ædificata
built, *i. e.* be- } erat.
fore a certain }
time past. }

The house had } _____
been building. }

The house had } Domus ædificata
been built. } erat, *or* fuerat.

Future time.

The { will } be } Domus ædi-
house { shall } building. } ficabitur.

The { will } be } Domus ædifica-
house { shall } built. } ta erit.

The

The { will } have been } _____
 house { shall } building. }
 The { will } have been } Domus ædi-
 house { shall } built. } ficata fuerit.

Here it may not be improper to make two or three remarks.

First, The tenses of the passive voice compounded with the participle in *ing* are never used but in the third person, and with relation to inanimate objects; or, at least, such as are incapable of the actions mentioned. They can, therefore, in no case occasion obscurity. For whenever the imperfect participle is joined, by an auxiliary verb, to a nominative capable of the action, it is taken actively; but, when joined to one incapable of the action, it becomes passive. If we say, *The men*
are

are building a house, the imperfect participle *building* is evidently used in an active sense ; because the men are capable of the action. But, when we say, *The house is building*, or, *Patents are preparing*, the participles *building*, and *preparing*, must necessarily be understood in a passive sense; because, neither the house nor the patents are capable of action.

The propriety of these imperfect passive tenses has been doubted by almost all our grammarians: though, I believe, but few of them have written many pages without condescending to make use of them. I acknowledge that this appears to me the most questionable of any part of my plan. But it is agreeable to the analogy of our language; for, as the perfect participle is used either in an active, or
passive

passive sense, why should not the imperfect participle be used so too? And such is the utility (I had almost said the necessity) of these forms of expression, that, though they have not been authorised by the judgment, they have, at least, been countenanced by the practice of our best writers*. In many cases it is of great importance to distinguish between perfect and imperfect actions; *i. e.* to inform the reader, or hearer, whether the house is actually *built*, or is only

* Dr. Beattie says, "One of the greatest defects in the English tongue, with regard to the verb, seems to be the want of an imperfect passive participle." But, notwithstanding this remark, he uses the imperfect participle in a passive sense, as often as most writers. He does not scruple to say, "Actions that *are* now *performing*," "Creusa, who *was missing*," &c.

now *building* : and I do not know that this distinction can be conveyed to the mind, in any other way, with so much clearness and precision. Therefore, though I would by no means recommend a too frequent use of these imperfect passive tenses, yet in some instances they are so convenient, if not necessary, that, I think, they should not be entirely rejected.

Secondly. The distinction between perfect and imperfect tenses does not extend to verbs which denote a continued energy, or affection of the mind ; from the very nature of them, they are incapable of it : their participles in *ing* are therefore never made use of in forming compound tenses. We do not say, *I am loving, I am fearing, I am hating, I*

G

am

am approving, I am knowing; but we say, I love, I fear, I hate, I approve, I know, &c. Nor do we say, I have been loving, I have been hating, &c. but, I have loved, I have hated, &c. Nor in the passive voice can we say that any thing is, or has been, loving, or fearing; but that it is, or has been, loved, or feared. For these verbs express not only the completion or ending, but likewise the continuance of energy, or affection, by the participle in ed.*

Thirdly.

* Had Dr. Beattie attended to this distinction, he would not have said, p. 393, that "*amabam*, "in our common Latin grammars, ought to "be translated by, *I was loving*." He should rather have remarked, that *amo* is not the most proper word to be given to boys as an example of the first conjugation; for, as it signifies an affection

Thirdly. All the Latin grammars, which I have seen, appear to me to have made a mistake in the formation of the preter-perfect tense passive. They direct us to form it by joining either the present or the preter-perfect tense of the verb *sum* to the perfect participle; and generally seem to consider *ædificata est*, and *ædificata fuit*, as synonymous expressions: nor do they tell

affection of the mind, it is not so well adapted to display the full powers of the English verb, and shew its correspondence with the Latin, as some others are.

Bishop Lowth enumerates, *I am loving*, *I was loving*, and *I shall be loving*, amongst the tenses of the English verb, p. 63. But if the distinction which I have made above be just, they ought to have been omitted; or, rather, he should have taken for his example some other verb, which does not signify a continued energy, or affection of the mind.

us which of them is the most commonly used. Ruddiman, indeed, has attempted to point out a distinction between them. He says, "By domus ædificata *est*, I mean simply that the house is finished, without any regard to the time when; ædificata *fuit*, it is finished, and some time since has intervened." Ward makes nearly the same distinction. In modern Latin authors, it is not uncommon to find *fuit* joined to a perfect participle: but, in writers of classical antiquity, such a construction very seldom occurs. With a view to ascertain this, and some other points relative to the tenses of verbs, I have lately read a great part of *Victor*, *Eutropius*, *Nepos*, *Justin*, *Cæsar*, *Sallust*, *Cicero's Orations*, *Phædrus*, *Ovid's Metamorphoses* and *Tristia*,

Tristia, *Virgil*, *Horace*, *Terence*, and *Juvenal*. But I have only been able to collect three-and-twenty instances of *fuit*'s being joined to a perfect participle: and most of these are very suspicious cases; for the participles with which they are compounded are frequently used as nouns or adjectives*. Whereas, in the course
of

* Sentences in which *fuit* is joined to a perfect participle.

" Janua sed nullo tempore *aperta fuit*. OVID.

" *Affuetus* studiis mollibus ipse *fui*. ID.

—— " *Capitolia cernens*,

" *Quæ* nostro frustra *juncta fuere* Lari." ID.

" Cuique *fuit* rerum *promissa* potentia, Tybrin." ID.

" Cum *Peliâ* tot sunt genitæ, cur nobilis una est ?

" *Nupta fuit* misero nempe quod una viro." ID.

" *Profecti* trecenti sex duce Fabio consule *fuere*." VICTOR.

" Hac tam parvâ manu universum terrarum

G 3

" orbem

of the same reading, I found innumerable (I believe I may safely say many thousand)

" orbem utrum admirabilius vicerit, an aggredi
" *ausus fuerit*, incertum est." JUSTIN.

" Confestim bella illata sunt, nec pax *rata*
" *fuit*." EUTROP. US.

" His speculum in cathedrâ matris *positum fuit*." PHÆDRUS.

" Ne quid respublica detrimenti caperet,
" quo uno versiculo satis *armati* semper con-
" *sules fuerunt*, etiam nullis armis datis."

CICERO.

" Quos ante se imperatorem nemo Bœotio-
" rum *ausus fuit* aspicere in acie." NEPOS.

" Theopompus, qui *fuit* post aliquantò na-
" tus." ID.

" In primis Lucanus aper leni *fuit* Austro

" *Captus*, ut aiebat cœnæ pater." HOR.

" Quid, quod omnes consulares, qui tibi
" persæpè ad cædem *constituti fuerunt*, simul-
" atque assedisti, partem istam subselliorum
" nudam atque inanem reliquerunt?"

CICERO.

" *Fuit* enim profectò quibusdam summis vi-

" ris

thousand) instances of *est* joined to the same participle.

I think,

“ris quædam ad amplitudinem, et gloriam, et
“ad res magnas benè gerendas, divinitùs ad-
“*juncta* fortuna.” CICERO.

“Contra Lævinum Valeri genus, unde Superbus

“Tarquinius regno *pulsus fuit*, unius assis

“Non unquam pretio pluris licuisse, notante

“Judice, quem nōsti, populo.” HOR.

“Cui quidem sic *fuit deditus*, ut adolescens
“tristem & severum senem omnibus equalibus
“suis in familiaritate anteposuerit.” NEPOS.

“Quæret quispiam quid? illi ipsi summi
“viri, quorum virtutes literis proditi sunt,
“istâne doctrinâ, quam tu laudibus effers, *eru-*
“*diti fuerunt?*” CICERO.

“Præsertim cum aliis quoque in civitatibus
“*fuerit adscriptus.*” ID.

“Portaque nequicquam rigidis permixta Sabinis

“Fonte *fuit præstrueta* novo; dum Martius arma

“Indueret mîles.” OVID.

“Hæc urbs condita primò a Pausania, rege
“Spartanorum, et per septem annos *possessa*
“*fuit*; deinde variante victoriâ, nunc Lace-

I think, therefore, that in grammars intended for the instruction of youth,

“dæmoniorum, nunc Atheniensium, juris habita est.” JUSTIN.

———“Ita visus est

“Dudum, quia variâ veste *exornatus fuit*.” TER.

“*Dictum* hoc inter nos *fuit*, ex te adeò est ortum.” ID.

Just as this work was going to the press, a friend presented me with the following sentences from OVID's *Fasti*:

“Quæ sequitur, numero turba *notata fuit*.”

“Accipitri *juncta* columba *fuit*.”

“Dat teretem zonam quâ modo *cincta fuit*.”

“Sic sedit; sic *culta fuit*; sic stamina nevit.”

“Quæque *fuit* fatis *debita*, poscit opem.”

“Sylvis *fuit* ortus in altis.”

“Hoc bibit; ex illo tempore *nupta fuit*.”

“*Nupta fuit* quondam matertera Cæsaris illi.”

I do not say that these are all the instances in which *fuit* is joined to a perfect participle: but that they are all which I have hitherto been able to collect; though I have read many of the above-mentioned authors quite through, and more than half of most of them with a view

youth, *amatus fui* should either be omitted; or else an intimation should be

view to ascertain this, and some other points of a similar nature; and therefore I think few, if any, in the course of that reading, have escaped my notice. When compared to the innumerable instances of the other construction (*i. e.* of *est* joined to that participle) which occur in the same authors, these few examples are but like a drop of water to the immense ocean. Besides, most of them are very doubtful cases. *Nupta* and *dictum* are commonly nouns: *aper-tus*, *assuetus*, *junctus*, *ratus*, *positus*, *cinctus*, *armatus*, &c. are sometimes adjectives; and most, if not all, of them may be considered as such in these instances. Some of these passages are taken from writers of no very high authority; and others may possibly have been errors of transcribers, poetical licences, or inaccuracies in the authors themselves. Many of them are not strictly and properly *preter-perfect tenses*; for they only represent the state of things at a given time. They do not signify the performance of perfect actions (that in which the essence of this tense consists), but merely denote the continuance

be given, that it is *very seldom used*.

None

tinuance of the effects of certain actions : and, therefore, though the words are originally participles, they are here applied like adjectives, and consequently (according to the general usage of the language) may have any tense of the verb *sum* joined to them which the sense requires. For instance, *Exornatus fuit* does not represent the action of dressing, but merely the state in which the person then was. If Terence had wanted to express the action of dressing, and point out the time of it, he would have said, *Exornatus est tertiâ horâ*, *He was dressed at nine o'clock* : or, had he wanted to ascertain how long he had been dressed, he would have said, *A tertiâ horâ exornatus est tali veste*, *He has been thus dressed ever since nine o'clock*. But, as he merely wanted to express the state in which the person was at a certain time, he was at liberty to use any tense of the verb *sum* significant of that time, in the same manner as if *exornatus* was an adjective. This remark may be applied to *positum fuit*, *juncta fuit*, *aperta fuit*, *cincta fuit*, &c. &c. For *positum fuit* does not denote

None of the authorities which I
have been able to find, seem to war-
rant

denote the action of placing; nor does *juncta fuit*, in either of the instances, signify the action of joining, or *aperta fuit* the action of opening, or *cineta fuit* that of girding, &c. But they merely represent the state in which things were at a certain time.

In some of these instances, I think *erat* might have been substituted for *fuit*, if the poet's *measure* would have allowed it. For Cæsar, in a case which appears to me to be similar to them, says, "Fervefacta jacula in casas, quæ
" more Gallico stramentis *erant tectæ*, jacere
" cœperunt." The words, *erant tectæ*, are not here used merely as a pluperfect tense, to signify that the cottages had been covered with straw, but to represent the state in which they were at that time, *i. e.* that they were *then* covered with it: *tectæ* is therefore, in this instance, more like an adjective than a participle. In like manner H. Parfa says, "Flumen infimam vallem dividebat, quæ penè totum montem cingebat, in quo *positum erat* præruptum
" undique

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undique

rant the distinction made by Ward and Ruddiman; for, though it is undoubt-

“undique oppidum Uxellodunum.” Here *positum erat* is of the same time with *dividebat* and *cingebat*, and does not mean merely that the town had been placed on a mountain, but represents it as being then situate on a mountain.

Many examples of a similar nature might be produced. I shall only mention the following ones :

“Inde tori, qui *junctus erat*, velamina tangit.” Ov.

“*Captaque erat* lyricis Ausonis ora sonis.” Id.

“E quibus dux fieri quilibet *aptus erat*.” Id.

“Naves longas expediunt numero 17, quarum *erant* 11 *teflæ*.” CÆSAR.

“Primâ luce ex superioribus locis, quæ Cæsaris castris *erant conjuncta*, cernebatur equitatus, &c.” Id.

“Cum ita *clausa erant* nobis omnia maria, ut neque privatam rem maritimam, neque publicam, jam obire possemus.” CICERO.

“Alma tamen tellus, ut *erat circumdata* ponto,

“Sustulit omniferos collo tenus arida vultus.” Ov.

These

undoubtedly true that an action just finished cannot be expressed by *fuit*,
yet

These authorities I think sufficient to justify the conjecture, that in some of the above instances *erat* might have been substituted for *fuit*, had it been consistent with the *measure* of the verse; and to shew that such participles as these may, like adjectives, be joined to any tense of the verb *sum* that is expressive of the time alluded to.

I have said above that *domus ædificata est* is used in three different senses; viz. 1st, the house *is built*; 2dly, it *has been built*; and 3dly, it *was built*, i. e. at a certain time past. I think it unnecessary to give examples of the first sense; because I suppose no person will doubt but that *est* is more proper than *fuit* in that case. To shew that *est* is commonly used in the two other cases, I will here give a few examples, out of a great number which might easily be produced.

Examples in which *est*, with a perfect participle, is used to signify that a thing *has been* done; or, if the verb be deponent, that a
person

yet it is equally certain that, even
when a great space of time has inter-
vened

person *has* done a thing, *i. e.* in a period of
time some part of which still remains unex-
pired.

“ In quibus *es venata jugis?*” OVID.

—“ *Tune es quesita per omnes*

“ *Nata mihi terras?*” ID.

“ Non apis inde tulit collectos sedula flores ;

“ Non *data sunt* capiti genialia ferta ; nec unquam

“ Falciferæ secuère manus.” ID.

“ Neve mihi noceat, quod vobis semper, Achivi,

“ Profuit ingenium : meaque hæc facundia, si qua

“ est,

“ Quæ nunc pro domino, pro vobis sæpè *locuta est,*

“ Invidiâ careat.” ID.

“ Ut fumus in Ponto, ter frigore constitit Ister ;

“ *Facta est* Euxini dura ter unda maris.” ID.

“ *Diæaque sunt* nobis, quamvis manus ultima

“ cæpto

“ Defuit, in facies corpora versa novas.” ID.

“ Et mea *sunt* populo *saltata* poemata sæpè ;

“ Sæpè oculos detinuère tuos.” ID.

“ Nec post oculis *est reddita* nostris.” VIRG.

“ Quæ

vened between the action and the narration, *est* with the perfect participle

"Quæ in omnibus hominibus nova post hominum memoriam *constituta sunt*, ea tam multa non sunt, quam hæc quæ in hoc uno homine vidimus." CICERO.

"Satis diu dedisti verba; sat adhuc tua nos *frustra* trata *est* fides." TER.

"Ibo; etsi herclè sæpè jam me spes hæc *frustrata est*." ID.

—"Jam inde ab adolescentiâ

Ego hanc clementem vitam urbanam, atque otium, *Secutus sum*." ID.

"Me Capitolinus victore *usus* amicoque A puero *est*." HOR.

"Quos ego *sum* toties jam *dedignata* maritos." VIRG.

"Magno studio mihi a pueritiâ *est elaboratum*." CICERO.

"Sæpè in iisdem, sæpè in contrariis causis *versati sumus*." ID.

"Nisi fortè ego vobis, qui et miles, et tribunus, et legatus, et consul, *versatus sum*, in vario genere bellorum, cessare nunc videor, cum bella non gero." ID.

"Omis-

ciple is *generally used* by all good authors.

The

“Omissâque controversiâ, omnis oratio ad
“*misericordiam tuam conferenda est; quâ plu-*
“*rimi sunt conservati, cum à te non libera-*
“*tionem culpæ, sed errati veniam, impetravif-*
“*sent.*” CICERO.

“Qui à te *conservati sumus. At verò hu-*
“*jus gloriæ, C. Cæsar, quam es paulò ante*
“*adeptus, socium habes neminem.*” ID.

“Quam hodierno die *consecutus es.*” ID.

“Nam, quæ ad hoc tempus Jugurtham
“*tutata sunt, omnia removistis.*” SALLUST.

“Eò non accidit quod nunquam cum for-
“*tiore sum congressus.*” NEPOS.

“Omnes autem et habentur et dicuntur
“*tyranni, qui potestate sunt perpetuâ in eâ*
“*civitate quæ libertate usa est.*” ID.

“Magnæ sæpè res non ita magnis copiis
“*sunt gestæ; sed profectò nunquam a tam*
“*tenui initio tantæ opes sunt profligatæ.*” ID.

“Ita neque hic locus vacuus unquam fuit
“*ab iis qui vestram causam defenderent; et*
“*meus*

The Latin preterperfect tense passive appears to me to express merely the

"meus labor in privatorum periculis castè
"integrèque versatus ex vestro iudicio fruc-
"tum *est* amplissimum consecutus." CIC.

Examples of *est*, with a perfect participle, used to signify that a thing was done at a certain time past.

"Filius huic, fato divùm, prolesque virilis
"Nulla fuit : primæque oriens *erepta* juventà *est*." VIRGIL.

"Quum perducere eum non posset, inter-
"ficere *conatus est*. Interim *conflata sunt* illa
"bella, quæ ad internicionem post Alexandri
"mortem *gesta sunt*, omnesque concurrerunt ad
"Perdiccam opprimendum." NEPOS.

"Illà *sunt* annis *juncti* juvenilibus ; illà
"Consenuère casà." OVID.

"Anno enim post consul primum fuerat,
"quam ego *natus sum* ; cumque eo quartum
"consule adolescentulus miles *profectus sum*
"ad Capuam ; quintoque anno post ad Taren-
H "tum,

the completion of a past action, without pointing to any particular part of

"tum quaestor ; deinde edilis, quadriennio post
"factus sum praetor." CICERO.

"Ad ea arma profectus sum, quæ erant sum-
"pta contra te." ID.

"Uno et octogesimo anno scribens mortuus
"est." ID.

"Anno ante me censorem mortuus est." ID.

"Ipse autem, ut a Brundisio profectus est,
"undequingagesimo die totam ad imperium
"populi Romani Siciliam adjunxit : omnes qui
"ubique predones fuerunt, partim capti inter-
"fectique sunt, partim unius hujus imperio ac
"potestati se dediderunt." ID.

"Siciliæ primò Trinacriæ nomen fuit ; pos-
"tea Sicania cognominata est. Hæc a princi-
"pio patria Cyclopum fuit." JUSTIN.

"Sed postquam Cn. Pompeius ad bellum
"maritimum et Mithridaticum missus est, plebis
"opes imminutæ, paucorum potentia crevit."
SALLUST.

"Id

of past time in which it was performed. In this respect it exactly corresponds

“ Id oppidum ab Sidoniis *conditum est*, quos accepimus profugos ob discordias civiles navibus in eos locos venisse.” SALLUST.

“ Eâ quæ *secuta est* hieme, qui fuit annus, &c.” CÆSAR.

“ Cumque *est data* copia primum

“ In Circes odium fociis spoliavit Ulyssen.” OV.

“ Tu quoque pande tuos, comitum gratissime, casus,

“ Et ducis, et turbæ quæ tecum *credita* ponto *est*.” ID.

“ Hic annus non eò tantum insignis fuit, quod repenti pax totâ Græciâ *facta est*; sed etiam eò, quod eodem tempore urbs Romana à Gallis *capta est*.” JUSTIN.

“ Namque postquam Xerxes in Græciam descendit, sexto ferè anno postquam expulsus erat plebiscito in patriam *restitutus est*. Interfuit autem pugnæ navali apud Salamina, quæ *facta est* priusquam pœnâ liberaretur. Idem prætor fuit Atheniensium apud Plateas, in prælio quo Mardonius *fusus*, barbarorumque exercitus *est interfectus*.” NEPOS.

sponds to the preterperfect tense active, *ædificavit*; for that only denotes the

“ In oppido Citio *est mortuus.*” NEPOS.

“ Hujus casu aliquantum *retardati sunt* Bœ-
“ otii; neque tamen prius pugnâ exceſſerunt
“ quam repugnantes proſtigârunt.” ID.

“ Alcibiades nunquam mediocribus, nec in
“ offenſâ, nec in favore, ſtudiis ſuorum *exceptus*
“ *est.*” JUSTIN.

“ Ita quod in adverſis rebus optaverant, oti-
“ um, poſtquam *adepti sunt*, aſperius accerbiuf-
“ que fuit.” SALLUST.

“ Si meminifti quod olim *dictum est*, ſubjice.”

TER.

“ A quâ die materia *cæſa est.*” CÆSAR.

“ Fuit etiam extremo Peloponneſio bello
“ prætor, quum apud Ægos flumen copiæ A-
“ thenienſium à Lyſandro *sunt deviſtæ.* Sed
“ tum abſuit, eoque pejus res *adminiſtrata est.*”

NEPOS.

“ Hunc adverſus Pharnabazus *habitus est* im-
“ perator; re quidem verâ exercitui præfuit
“ Conon, ejuſque omnia arbitrio *geſta sunt.*” ID.

“ Quem

the completion of a past action, without any particular regard to the time when

"Quem Dion adeò *admiratus est* atque *amavit*, ut se totum ei traderet. Neque verò minus Plato *delectatus est* Dione." NEPOS.

"Tale initium fuit Dionis et Dionysii similitatis; eaque multis rebus *aucta est*." ID.

"Posteà Numa Pompilius rex *creatus est*."

EUTROP.

"Trigesimo octavo imperii anno per Ancii filios *occisus est*." ID.

"*Occisus est* 45 imperii anno." ID.

"Mox exercitus quoque eum reliquit, veniensque ad urbem, rex portis clausis *exclusus est*." ID.

"Cognatus mihi erat; unà a pueris parvuli

"*Sumus educi*: paupertatem unà pertulimus gratiam."

TER.

"Diebus circiter 15, quibus in hiberna *ventum est*, initium repentini tumultus ac defectionis *ortum est*."

CÆSAR.

"Postquam apud Ægos flumen Lyfander classis hostium *est potitus*, nihil aliud *molitus est*,

when it happened. Here the English language has greatly the advantage; for *domus ædificata est* signifies either the house *is built*, or *has been built*, or *was built*: and *ædificavit* is the only word by which you can express either *he has been building*, or *he has built*, or *he built*, or *he did build*.

The copiousness of the English language very much depends upon the application of its participles; for they may be joined to the auxiliary verbs *to have*, and *to be*, throughout

“*est, quam ut omnes civitates in suâ teneret*
“*poteſtate.*” NEPOS.

——“*Nam ea, quæ antea facta sunt,*

“*Omitto.*” TER.

“*Quam ob rem Alexander ad avunculum se*
“*in Epirum cum matre, inde ad regem Illyri-*
“*orum, contulerat: vixque revocanti mitigatus*
“*est patri, precibusque cognatorum ægrè re-*
“*dire compulſus.*” JUSTIN.

all

all their tenses. The French, and I believe most other modern languages, have two participles similar to ours: and they make use of their perfect participle, in forming compound tenses, in the same manner that we do; though they do not use the imperfect one for that purpose. We cannot therefore wonder, that, upon the first revival of ancient literature, some persons, who wrote in Latin, should have so far adopted the idiom of their own languages, as to join the perfect participle indiscriminately to all the tenses of the verb *sum*, taken in their common acceptation. For, being familiarly acquainted with the advantages arising from such a construction in their mother tongues, they could not easily suspect that any language, possessed

of *similar participles*, and *auxiliary verbs*, should not have made the *same use* of them. But that grammarians (many of whom have been learned, and some of them inquisitive men), whose business it has been to ascertain the laws of the language, should have so long implicitly followed each other, without detecting the mistake, may perhaps be thought a little surprising.

I should not have supposed it necessary to say so much upon this subject, if I had not observed that some of our grammarians, of the greatest eminence, and of the most established reputation, have not only fallen into this error themselves, but taken the most likely method to hand it down to posterity. The *ETON Greek Grammar*, and MILNER'S

NER's *Greek Grammar*, both of them translate the *preterperfect tense*, and likewise the *two aorists*, by *verberatus fui* ONLY, without mentioning *sum*. Both the WESTMINSTER *Greek Grammar* and CAMDENUS ILLUSTRATUS translate the *preterperfect tense*, very properly, by *verberatus sum*; but the only expression which they appropriate to the *two aorists*, is *verberatus fui*. Hence, I presume, we are fully warranted in concluding, not only that the learned authors of those grammars supposed *verberatus fui* to be perfectly classical; but likewise to be more *proper*, or at least more *commonly used*, than *verberatus sum*: for otherwise it is not easy to account for the *decided preference* which they have all four given to the *former*.

I do

I do not say that *verberatus fui* is absolutely *ungrammatical*: the authorities for it, though but few, and most of them doubtful, are, I acknowledge, sufficient to shew that it may, upon some occasions, be tolerated. But I think it very wrong, that so questionable a point should have been established by such venerable functions: and I am firmly persuaded that, if the authors of those valuable grammatical works had, at the time of their writing, recollected how *very generally* SUM is made use of, and how *very seldom* FUI is to be found in such a construction, they would have expressed themselves differently, for fear of misleading uncautious readers.

The number and respectability of the writers, whose opinion I here
con-

controvert, is my apology for giving so many classical authorities, in the note annexed to this article. If the quotations appear too numerous, any part of them may be omitted, without injuring the connexion. On the other hand, if they should not be thought sufficient to establish the point, I beg leave to refer the reader to any author of the *Augustan* age; and I cannot help hazarding the conjecture, that the first twenty pages, which he impartially examines with a view to this enquiry, will produce conviction; and that, the next time he writes in Latin, he will use *est*, and not *fuit*, in forming the preterperfect tense passive *.

Having

* There is no law of the Latin language which is more certain and invariable, nor that is of more general use, than the following one;
viz.

Having already had occasion to say so much respecting the nature of participles, I think it will not be improper to finish the consideration of them, before we proceed to any other part of our subject.

viz. *The place where any thing is, or is done, is always expressed in the ablative; EXCEPT it be the name of a town, of the first or second declension, and singular number; in which case it is expressed in the genitive, governed of urbe, or oppido, understood. Domi, humi, militiæ, and belli, are likewise exceptions.* How astonishing then is it, that all our common Latin grammars should give us the EXCEPTIONS to the rule very particularly, and not one of them give us the RULE ITSELF, that *the place where is in the ablative?* Perhaps it may be said, that the *place where* is governed by the preposition *in*, sometimes expressed and sometimes understood; and therefore it was not necessary to give a rule for it. The *time when* is likewise governed by the preposition *in*, sometimes expressed, as *in tempore veni*, &c. and sometimes understood; and yet all grammarians tell us that the *time when* is expressed in the *ablative*.

COMPOUND

COMPOUND PARTICIPLES.

BY joining two or more participles together, compound ones are formed; as, *being writing*, *having been writing*, *having written*, *being written*, *having been written*. The meaning of all these is sufficiently evident from their construction.

All verbs in their finite modes are significant of time. *e. g.* the word *writes*, in itself, without any assistance from adjuncts, signifies present time; *wrote*, past time; and *shall* or *will write*, future time. For the word *wrote*, with whatever circumstances it is attended, cannot be applied to *future time*; nor can *shall* or *will write*, in any connexion, be applied

to

to *past time*. But this, as has been already observed, is not the case with the participles *writing* and *written*; they are equally applicable to past, present, or future time: the only essential difference between them is, that the one represents an action in its *progressive*, and the other in its completed state. The dates, therefore, of the several actions, passions, &c. signified by participles, do not, *in any measure*, depend upon the *participles themselves*; but upon the *verbs*, and other *adjuncts*, with which they are connected. This, I think, is very evident with respect to all *simple* participles: and I humbly presume the same observation may be safely extended to the *compound* ones; for I much doubt whether there be any of them which cannot, upon one occasion or
other,

other, be applied either to express past, present, or future actions. Even those compound participles, which denote *complete* or finished actions, may be applied to *future*, as well as to *past* or *present* time. Thus, 'When-
 ' ever that ambitious young prince
 ' comes to the throne, *being supported*
 ' by a veteran army, and *having got*
 ' possession of the treasures which will
 ' be *found* in his father's coffers, he
 ' will not be long before he quarrels
 ' with one or other of his neigh-
 ' bours, who, not *being prepared*, will
 ' easily be *subdued*: and one of his
 ' neighbours *having been conquered*,
 ' will furnish him with a motive to
 ' attack the rest. For, *having succeed-*
 ' *ed* in his first attempt, he will with
 ' more confidence engage in a se-
 ' cond.'

But

But though participles are not in themselves significant of time, yet all circumstances relating either to the time when any thing happened, or how long it continued, may easily be added to them. Thus, ‘*Having set out* from Norwich yesterday evening at six o’clock, and *having travelled* all night, he arrived in London at eight this morning;’ or, ‘By *setting out* at six o’clock this evening, and *travelling* all night, he will arrive at eight to-morrow morning.’ But we must not infer that participles are, in themselves, significant of time, merely because they are capable of receiving dates; for all circumstances relating to *time* may be added to *nouns*, and even to *adjectives*, in the same manner in which they are added to *participles*:
e. g. the

e. g. The *time* and *duration* of a man's *poverty*; *i. e.* the *time when*, and the *time how long*, he was *poor*, may be ascertained *precisely in the same way* in which we ascertain the *time when*, and the *time how long*, a man was *writing*; and yet nobody supposes the noun *poverty*, or the adjective *poor*, to signify time. For we can as well say, 'The *poverty* of the first twenty years of his life, or his having been *poor* during the first twenty years of his life, had made him frugal;' or, 'He was *poor* during the first twenty years of his life, and that had made him frugal;' as we can say, 'His *having been writing* six hours had wearied him.' Again, 'A continued *journey* of three days had fatigued him;' or, 'His *having travelled* three days together had fa-

I 'tigated

‘tigated him.’ ‘*Having been languish-*
‘*ing* with illness *six weeks*, from the
‘first of May to the twelfth of June,
‘he was become pale ;’ or, ‘A *six*
‘*weeks illness*, from the first of May
‘to the twelfth of June, had rendered
‘him pale.’ If the compound parti-
ciples *having travelled*, and *having been*
languishing, are significant of time,
why are not the nouns *journey* and
illness likewise significant of it?

However, there is a sense in which
participles, and even *nouns* and *adjectives*,
may be said to signify time
relatively, though they cannot do it
absolutely: for those participles which
are compounded with the auxiliary
being, always denote something *con-*
temporary with, and those compounded
with the auxiliary *having*, always de-
note something *antecedent to*, the time
spoken

spoken of; though they are not, in themselves, capable of contributing any thing towards the fixing of that time. In the same manner *adjectives* always denote qualities *contemporary* with the *substantives* to which they belong; *causes* are always *prior* to their *effects*, and the end of every thing *posterior* to its *commencement*; and yet no grammarian has ever said, that either adjectives or nouns are significant of time.

Participles sometimes become mere adjectives; as, a *loving* father, a *learned* man, &c.

And all the participles, whether simple or compound, are occasionally made use of as substantives: *e. g.*
 ‘His *being* writing prevented his *attending* to it.’ ‘His *having been* writing a long time had wearied him.’

‘His *having written* to them procured him a favourable reception.’
 ‘The letter’s *being written* by him procured him favour.’ ‘Its *having been written* by him had procured him favour.’

It is worthy of observation, that the imperfect participle, when converted into a noun, is sometimes used in an active, and sometimes in a passive sense. ‘His *writing* to them procured him favour.’ ‘The *writing* of letters is a painful task.’ In both these instances the word *writing* is used in an active sense; but when we mention the *writings* of an author, or the *writings* belonging to an estate, we use the word in a passive sense. Again, ‘His *building* of churches occasioned his *being canonized*.’ Here *building* is active. But if we say,
 ‘The

‘The *building* which he erected,’ the same word is taken in a passive sense *.

The

Dr. Priestley says, “If I say, *What think you of my horse’s running to-day?* I use the noun *running*, and suppose the horse to have actually run; for it is the same thing as if I had said, *What think you of the running of my horse?* But if I say, *What think you of my horse running to-day?* I use the participle, and I mean to ask, whether it be proper that my horse should run or not; which, therefore, supposes that he had not then run.” P. 122.

With great deference to so high an authority, I presume that the sentence, *What think you of my horse’s running to-day?* may either mean, What think you concerning the *manner* of my horse’s running to-day? (supposing him to have actually run.) Or it may mean, What think you concerning the *propriety* of letting my horse run to-day? (supposing that he has not run.) The other sentence, *What think you of my horse running to-day?* is, I think, not grammatical: for, if instead of the word horse a pronoun was substituted, we should not say, ‘What think

The infinitive mode, preceded by the preposition *about*, is sometimes used to supply the place of a participle; as, *about to write*, *about to be written*. These expressions do not denote certain futurity, but intimate a disposition and readiness for the action: for it may be said, 'He was 'about to write, but something prevented him.' *About to write* is, I think, precisely equivalent to *scripturus*; but *about to be written* cannot always be translated by *scribendus*; for the participle in *dus* generally, if not always, includes in it the idea of fitness, duty, or obligation.

'you of *he* or *him* running to-day?' but, 'What 'think you of *his* running to-day?' Which clearly proves that the word *horse* should be in the *genitive* case, and that the word *running* is used as a substantive.

Participles,

Participles, very similar to these in meaning, are frequently formed by the imperfect participle of the verb *to go*, placed before the infinitive mode; as, *going to write, going to be written*. This is agreeable to the French idiom, *je m'en vais écrire*, &c.; and is, in many cases, a very convenient mode of expressing our ideas. By the help of these we form a kind of *inceptive* tenses, not denoting real action, but signifying readiness and preparation, with intention to act; as, *I am going to write, I am about to write, I was going to write, I was about to write, I shall be going to write, I shall be about to write*, &c. The use of these *inceptive tenses*, together with their correspondent expressions in *Latin* and *French*, will appear more fully from the following table, exhi-

biting all the tenses of the indicative mode active at one view *.

* This table was reserved for this place, that I might have an opportunity of introducing these *inceptive tenses*, together with the other tenses belonging to the indicative mode.

TENSES

TENSES BELONGING TO PRESENT
TIME.

—	I have been { going about	{ to write.	—
Scripturus sum.	I am { going about	{ to write.	{ Je vais Je m'en écris. vais
Scribo.	{ I write, I do write, I am writing *	}	J'écris.
—	I have been writing.	—	—
Scripsi.	I have written.	—	J'ai écrit.

* Mr. Harris translates *I am writing* by *scribens sum*, p. 121; and Sanctius, the great restorer of classical literature, says, "Duo activa participia adjuncta
" verbo substantivo, totam perficiunt cujuslibet verbi activam, et duo passiva to-
" tam passivam; sic, *amans sum*, *amans eram*, *amans fui*, &c." P. 341. But though
I am disposed to pay great deference to their opinion in most cases, yet in this in-
stance I venture to dissent from them; because I cannot recollect any classical au-
thority which appears to me to warrant such an use of that participle.

TENSES BELONGING TO PAST
TIME.

Scripturus fueram.	I had been {going about	} to write.	_____
Scripturus {eram fui.	I was {going about	} to write.	{J'allois Je m'en } écrire. allos
Scribebam.	I was writing.		J'écrivois.
Scribebam.	{I wrote, I did write,	{when used inde- finitely, <i>i. e.</i> to signify habits.	J'écrivois.
Scripti.	{I wrote, I did write,	{(when used defi- nitely)	J'écrivis.
_____	I had been writing.		_____
Scriptiseram.	I had written.		{J'avois J'eus } écrit.

TENSES BELONGING TO FUTURE
TIME.

Scripturus ero.	I shall or will be	{ going } to write.	_____
		{ about }	
Scribam.	I shall or will	{ write, }	J'écirai.
		{ be writing. }	
_____	I shall or will have been writing.		_____
Scripsero.	I shall or will have written.		J'aurai écrit.

THE INFINITIVE MODE.

PARTICIPLES are likewise used in forming the compound tenses of the infinitive mode. It will therefore, I think, be most convenient to proceed next to the consideration of that part of the verb.

In English, as well as in other languages, the infinitive mode is usually governed by a preceding verb, and requires an accusative case before it ; as, 'I ordered him to write a letter.' Here *ordered* is the governing verb, *to write* the infinitive mode, and *him* the accusative before it. It is occasionally used as a substantive in all languages ;

languages * ; as, ' *to err* is human,
' *to forgive* divine ; humanum est
' *errare*, divinum *ignoscere*.'

" Cujusvis

* Dr. Priestley, in his Course of Lectures on the Theory of Language and Universal Grammar, says, p. 101, " In *Latin*, instead of " using the infinitive mode as a noun in any " other case than the *nominative* (as in the *genitive*, *accusative*, and *ablative*), they give the " word another form, and call it a gerund ; as, " *cupidus scribendi*, desirous of writing ; *peritus* " *in scribendo*, skilful in writing ; *promptus ad* " *scribendum*, ready to write : whereas the " Greeks were content to make use of the infinitive itself for that purpose."

The Latin infinitive mode is used as a noun in all cases.

In the *nominative* ; as,

" Dulce et decorum est pro patria *mori*." HOR.

" Recepto dulce mihi *furere* est amico." ID.

" Dulce est *desipere* in loco." ID.

In the *genitive* ; as,

" *Posse loqui* (i. e. potestas loquendi) eripitur.

OVID.

" *Posse*

"Cujusvis hominis est *errare*;
 "nullius, nisi insipientis, *perseverare*
 "in errore." CICERO.

"Sceleris

"*Posse queri* (*i. e.* potestatem querendi) tantum
 "rauco stridore relinquit." OVID.

"Curaque finitimos *vincere* major erat." ID.
i. e. cura *vincendi*.

"*Cantare periti*." VIRG. *i. e.* *cantandi periti*.

"Rumpuntur nescia *vinci pectora*." ID.

—"Si vobis audentem extrema cupido est

"*Certa sequi*." ID.

"Cura nitentes *pascere equos*." ID.

In the *dative*; as,

"*Laudare paratus*." JUVENAL. *i. e.* *laudationi*,
 or *laudi danda paratus*.

"*Depugnare parati*." HORACE. *i. e.* *pugnae pa-*
rati.

"*Parata ferre jugum*." JUVENAL. *i. e.* *parata*
ferendo jugo. For *paratus* governs a *dative*;
 as,

—"Stat ferri acies mucrone corusco

"*Stricta, parata neci*." VIRGIL.

"*Silvaeque montanas occulere apta feras*. OVID.
i. e. *apta occultationi ferarum, or feris occu-*
lendis.

"Non

"Sceleris pœnam *prætermittere*, id
"enim est, quod vocatur *ignoscere*."

CICERO.

"Le

"Non erat apta *legi*." (i. e. *lectioni*.) OVID.

For *aptus* governs a dative; as,

"Res *epulis* quondam, nunc *bello* et *cadibus aptæ*."

ID.

"*Exercendis capiendisq; artibus apti*." JUV.

In the *accusative*; as,

"Reddes dulce *loqui*; reddes *ridere* decorum, et

"Inter vina fugam Cynaræ *merere* protervæ."

HOR.

—— "Invenietque

"Nil sibi legatum, præter *plorare*, suisque." ID.

In the *ablative*; as,

"Sæpe stylum veritas, iterum quæ digna *legi* sint

"Scripturus." ID.

Digna *legi*, i. e. digna *lectione*.

"*Moveri* digna." ID.

—— "Sed non domus una *perire*

"Digna fuit." OVID.

"Me miserum! ne prona cadas, indignave *ladi*

"Crura secent fentes; et sim tibi causa doloris."

ID.

"Tu

‘ *Le manger et le boire* font des
‘ choses nécessaires à l’homme.’

It has therefore by some grammarians been very properly called the noun, or name of the verb. It is not confined to either number or person; and may, with equal propriety, be applied to past, present, or future time. But notwithstanding this, it admits, in our language, of a considerable variety of expressions, each of which has a distinct and se-

“ Tu face, nescio quos, esto contentus amores

“ *Irritare tuâ.*”

OVID.

i. e. Contentus amorum *irritatione.*

“ Imperat aut servit collecta pecunia cuique

“ Tortum digna *sequi* potius, quam *ducere* funem.”

HOR.

I do not know by what authority the Dr. uses *peritus* in *scribendo*; for the adjective *peritus* usually governs a genitive case; as,

“ *Juris legumque peritus.*”

HOR.

parate

parate meaning; as, *to write, to be writing, to have been writing, to have written, to be written, to have been written.*

To write, to be writing, and to be written, always denote something *contemporary with or subsequent to* the time of the governing verb; *to have been writing, to have written, and to have been written,* always denote something *antecedent* to the time of the governing verb. This remark I conceive to be of great importance; for, if duly attended to, it will, in most cases, be sufficient to direct us in the application of these tenses.

The radical form, as, *to write*, is always used to signify something contemporary with, or subsequent to, the time of the governing verb; and, in those verbs which admit of the di-

K stinction

distinction between perfect and imperfect tenses, it denotes the complete state of the action*. In the following sentences the infinitive means something contemporary with the governing verb. 'He *is*, or *was*, or *has been*, or *will be*, supposed to love, to fear, &c. ;' 'He *is*, *was*, or *will be* obliged to read a great deal, and to write frequently.' But it most ge-

* The verbs which do not admit of this distinction are such as signify a continued energy, or affection of mind. In these, and likewise in such verbs as express habits, this infinitive generally denotes an action contemporary with the governing verb ; but in all other verbs it most commonly denotes an action subsequent to it. But this does not depend merely on the nature of the verb which is in the infinitive mode, but on the verb that governs it. For if the governing verb signifies to order, command, expect, &c. the infinitive must necessarily mean something subsequent to it.

nerally

nerally signifies an action subsequent to the time of the governing verb; as, 'He *is, was, or will be* ordered to write;' 'He was expected *to come* last Thursday;' 'He has determined *to build* a house next summer.'

To be writing expresses the incomplete state of the action, and confines it to the precise time of the governing verb; *i. e.* it signifies that the action is, was, or will be, begun, going on, but not finished, at a certain period of time; as, 'He is supposed *to be writing* now;' 'He was supposed *to be writing* yesterday;' or, 'He will be supposed *to be writing* to-morrow.'

There is only one tense, either in Latin or French, to answer to these two; for *scribere* and *écrire* signify either *to write*, or *to be writing*.

To have been writing denotes the incomplete or unfinished state of an action, at a certain period *antecedent* to the time of the governing verb. It may either signify the continuance of an action to the time of the governing verb; as, 'He is supposed to *have been studying* Arabic these two years;' or it may express the incomplete state of an action at any period of former time: and, in this case, the precise date of the action is neither ascertained by the infinitive mode itself, nor by the verb that governs it; but by some other verb, or clause of the sentence; as, 'He is said to *have been writing* a letter when his friend called upon him;' 'He was acquitted, because he was proved to *have been working* in his garden at the time the accident happened.'

‘pened.’ I believe there is no tense, either in Latin or French, which corresponds to this.

To have written signifies an action completed in a period *antecedent* to the time of the governing verb. It may be used only to denote that a thing has been done, without limiting the action to any precise point of preceding time; as, ‘He is said *to have written* the book:’ or it may be applied to point out the precise time of the action; as, ‘He was *said to have written* it in the year ‘1780:’ or it may be used to denote an action performed before a certain time; as, ‘He will be supposed *to have written* it before the commencement of the present reign.’ This tense answers precisely to *scripsisse* in Latin, and *avoir écrit* in French.

To be writing is, I think, sometimes the imperfect infinitive passive; as, 'They knew letters *to be writing*;' 'They will suppose patents *to be preparing*.'

To be written denotes a perfect action, contemporary with, or subsequent to, the time of the governing verb; as, 'I saw the letter *written*, and ordered it *to be sent* the next day.' These two tenses are translated into Latin and French by *scribi* and *être écrit*.

To have been written denotes a perfect action antecedent to the time of the governing verb. It may only express the completion of the action, without ascertaining the time when it was performed; as, 'The letter is *supposed to have been written* by *him*;' or it may point out the precise

cise time of the action; as, 'It is
' supposed to have been written in
' the month of March, 1789:' or it
may signify an action performed be-
fore a certain time; as, 'It is sup-
' posed to have been written before
' last Christmas.' This tense is trans-
lated into Latin by *scriptum esse*, or
frequently by *scriptum* alone (*esse* be-
ing understood); and into French
by *avoir été écrit* *.

The

* All our Latin grammars form the preterper-
fect tense of the infinitive mode by *amatum esse*
vel *fuisse*; nor do they tell us which of these
expressions is the most proper, or the most com-
mon. *Fuisse* is very seldom used by the Ro-
mans in the construction of this tense: the
few instances of it which occur are chiefly in
the poets, by whom I suspect it was admitted
more for the sake of *metre* than for any other
reason.

—— "Zancle quoque *juncta fuisse*

" Dicitur Italiæ."

OVID.

K 4

—— "Credam

The application of the forms of
expression, or (as they are commonly
called)

- “Credam prius ora Medusæ
“Gorgonis sanguineis *cinēa* fuisse comis.” OVID.
“Quæ quoniam non sunt penitus sublata, sed ex-
“tant;
“Pluribus exemplis *scripta* fuisse reor.” ID.
“Sæpè etiam mœrens tempus reminiscitur illud,
“Quod non *præventum* morte fuisse dolet.” ID.
“An magis est verum, post Tulli funera ple-
“bem
“*Confusam* placidii morte fuisse ducis?” ID.
“Qui literas regi redderet, in quibus hæc
“*fuisse scripta* Thucydides memoriæ prodi-
“dit.” NEPOS.

Some of these expressions may possibly be only poetical licences; and most of the others are compounded with participles, which are here applied like adjectives; and consequently, according to the common usage of the Latin language, may have any tense of the verb *sum* joined to them which is significant of the time alluded to. See the remarks which I have made respecting the preterperfect tense of the indicative mode, p. 83.

The

called) tenses, of the infinitive mode,
does not in the least depend on the
tense

The following passage, I think, clearly points out to us the distinction which Cicero makes betwixt *esse* and *fuisse*: “Hæc tu scis ad me
“ *esse delata*; quæ si velim proferre, faciliè om-
“ nes intelligent vobis inter vos non modò vo-
“ luntatem *fuisse conjunctam*, sed ne prædam
“ quidem adhuc *esse divisam*.”—The words *fuisse conjunctam* do not strictly and properly constitute a preterperfect tense; for they do not express the action of joining, but merely represent the continued state of things. *Conjunctam* therefore, though originally a *participle*, is here used like an *adjective*; and might have *consentaneam* or *concordem* substituted in the place of it, without any material alteration in the sense: and, if either of these adjectives had been used, *fuisse* would have been absolutely necessary to limit the meaning to past time; for *voluntatem esse consentaneam*, or *concordem*, would signify present concord or agreement; whereas Cicero’s intention was to represent the concord or
friendship

tense of the governing verb; but very much upon its *signification*. Verbs signifying

friendship that subsisted between Cæcilius and Verres *while they were in Sicily*. On the other hand, the words *esse delata* properly constitute a preterperfect tense, for they represent an action that had been performed; and therefore, according to the general custom of the Latin language, *esse* was the most proper word to be employed.

Indeed I do not know that there is any instance in which Cicero joins *fuisse* to a *perfect participle*, except where that *participle* is used as an *adjective*; at least this is the case in the following sentences: “Ecquam putatis civitatem *pacatam fuisse*, quæ locuples sit? ecquam *esse locupletem* quæ istis *pacata* videatur?” Here *quietam*, or *tranquillam*, might be substituted for *pacatam*, with but little alteration in the sense.—“Quod enim fanum putatis in illis terris, nostris magistratibus religiosum, quam civitatem sanctam, quam domum satis clausam ac *munitam fuisse*?” *Munitam* might be changed

signifying to *oblige, force, permit, expect, order, command, &c.* can only
be

changed into *securam* or *tutam*.—"Sociis vestris
" ego mare *clausum* per hosce annos dicam *fuisse*, cum exercitus nostri Brundusio nunquam
" nisi summâ hieme transmiserint." In this
case such an adjective as *invium*, or *inaccessum*,
might be substituted for *clausum*.

The examples which I have here given of
fuisse joined to a *perfect participle*, are all which
I can at present recollect. I do not doubt but
that there are other instances, probably as many
as, perhaps more than, there are of *fuit* joined
to the same *participle*, to form the preterperfect
tense passive of the indicative. But here I
speak with caution; for, I acknowledge, I have
not examined the present case so minutely as I
did the former; and that, when I read several
of the classics with a view to collect authorities
relating to the indicative and subjunctive
modes, I did not pay the same attention to the
infinitive. However, this I may safely assert—
that the cases in which *fuisse* is used in forming
this

be followed by such infinitives as denote something subsequent to them;
for

this tense are very few, and that those in which *esse* is employed for the same purpose are very numerous; and therefore that *fuisse* should either be omitted, or an intimation should be given that it very seldom occurs in writers of classical antiquity.

Ward, in his edition of the common Latin grammar, observes, in a note relating to this point, that "*the pluperfect is not expressed by ESSE.*" The following authorities (very few in proportion to the numbers which might easily be produced) will, I presume, be abundantly sufficient to prove that this observation is not well founded; and to shew that *esse* is generally used by the best Roman authors, in forming, not only what is called the preterperfect, but likewise the pluperfect tense of this mode.

" Reperiebat etiam Cæsar inquirendo, quod
" prælium equestre adversum paucis ante die-
" bus esset factum; initium ejus fugæ à Dum-
" norige atque ejus equitibus *factum esse*
" (nam

for we cannot say, 'He *is*, *was*, or
' *will be* ordered, or permitted, *to have*
' *been*

" (nam equitatus, quem auxilio Cæsari Ædui
" miserant, Dumnorix præerat); eorumque
" fugâ reliquum *esse* equitatum *perterritum*."

CÆSAR.

" Divico respondit, Ita Helvetios à majori-
" bus suis *institutos esse*, uti obfides accipere, non
" dare, consueverint."

ID.

" Ita se omni tempore de populo Romano
" *meritos esse*, ut, penè in conspectu exercitûs
" nostri, agri vastari, liberi eorum in servitu-
" tem abduci, oppida expugnari, non debue-
" rint."

ID.

" An de fororis filio diligentius responden-
" dum est, quem ab hoc *necatum esse* dixisti,
" cum ad iudicii moram familiaris funeris ex-
" cusatio quereretur?"

CICERO.

" Erat enim alia gravis atque vehemens opi-
" nio, quæ per animos gentium barbararum
" pervaserat, fani locupletissimi et religiosissimi
" diripiendi causâ in eas oras nostrum exerci-
" tum *esse adductum*."

ID.

" In

' *been writing, or to have written.*'
But other verbs may, throughout *all*
their

"In agris erant tum senatores, et iidem senes ;
" siquidem aranti L. Quinctio Cincinnato nun-
" tiatum est eum Dictatorem *esse factum.*" CIC.

" Me sæpè *esse pollicitum*, sæpè ostendisse, di-
" cebant, &c." ID.

" Siciliam provinciam C. Verres per trien-
" nium *depopulatus esse*, Siculorum civitates vex-
" âsse, domos exinanisse, fana spoliâsse, dici-
" tur." ID.

" Non ea dico, quæ (si dicam) tamen infir-
" mare non possis—te, antequam de Sicilia de-
" cesseris, in gratiam rediisse cum Verre ; Po-
" tamonem, scribam et familiarem tuum, *reten-*
" *tum esse* à Verre in provinciâ, cum tu dece-
" deres." ID.

" Utrum tandem censes hos iudices gravius
" ferre oportere—te ab illo *esse læsum*, an
" provinciam Siciliam *esse vexatam ac perdi-*
" *tam?* Hic tu si *læsum* te à Verre *esse* dices,
" patiar et concedam ; si injuriam tibi *factam*
" quereris, defendam et negabo." ID.

" Dixisti

their tenses, be joined to *any tense* of the infinitive; for we may say, 'He *is*,
' *was*,

"Dixisti senatusconsultum, me referente, *esse factum*." CICERO.

"Quare doce, à L. Muræna illa *esse com- missa* : tum egomet tibi contra legem *com- missa esse* concedam." ID.

"Quid si etiam illud addam, quod à consuetudine non abhorret, *rogatos esse* multos." ID.

"Ab eodem imperatore classem magnam et ornatam, quæ ducibus Sertorianis ad Italiam studio inflammato raperetur, *superatam esse*, atque *depressam* : magnas hostium præterea copias multis præliis *esse deletas* ; *perfactumque* nostris legionibus *esse* Pontum, qui ante populo Rom. ex omni aditu clausus esset. Sinopem atque Amisum, quibus in oppidis erant domicilia regis, omnibus rebus ornata atque referta, cæterasque urbeis Ponti et Cappadociæ permultas uno aditu atque adventu *esse captas* : regem, spoliatum regno patrio atque avito, ad alios se reges, atque alias gentes, supplicem contulisse :

‘*was, or will be supposed to write, to
be writing, to have been writing, or
to have written.*’

“*lisse : atque hæc omnia salvis populi Ro-
mani fociis, atque integris vectigalibus, esse
gesta.*” CICERO.

“*Sic enim existimare debetis, Quirites ! post
hominum memoriam rem nullam majorem,
magis periculosam, magis ab omnibus vobis
providendam, neque à tribuno-pleb. suscep-
tam, neque à consule defensam, neque ad po-
pulum Rom. esse delatam.*” ID.

“*Non sese Gallis, sed Gallos sibi, bellum
intulisse ; omnes Galliæ civitates ad se oppug-
nandum venisse, ac contra se castra habuisse ;
eas omnes copias uno abs se prælio fusas ac
superatas esse.*” CÆSAR.

“*Bello superatos esse Arvernos et Rutenos
à Q. Fabio Maximo ; quibus populus Ro-
manus ignovisset.*” ID.

“*Ipsos in his contentionibus, quas Ædui se-
cum et cum Sequanis habuissent, auxilio po-
puli Romani usos esse.*” ID.

The

The best way to determine which of the forms of the infinitive mode is the most proper to be used, is to consider, whether the verb in the infinitive means something *antecedent*, *contemporary*, or *subsequent* to the time of the governing verb; and always to recollect that none of the tenses compounded with the auxiliary *have* can ever be employed, except it be to express something *antecedent* to the time of the governing verb.

All the forms of expression belonging to the infinitive mode, like participles, express time *relatively*, but not *absolutely*; for they may be applied either to *past*, *present*, or *future* actions. Even those expressions which are compounded with the auxiliary *have* may be employed to denote not only *past* and *present*, but

L *future*

future events. Thus, 'If he does it, ' he will always be supposed *to have* ' done it through avarice, or *to have* ' been actuated by some base motive.' The *absolute time* of the actions, here expressed by the infinitives *to have done* and *to have been actuated*, is *future*; but their *relative time* is *antecedent* to that of the governing verb, *will be supposed*.

The *absolute time* of an action cannot therefore be determined by the verb which is in the infinitive mode. It depends, in some cases, entirely on the governing verb; and in others partly on the governing verb, and partly on adjuncts. The *time* of those forms of expression which signify something *contemporary* with the governing verb, is entirely regulated by *that verb*; as, 'I suppose, I supposed,

‘*posed*, or *I shall suppose*, him *to be writing*.’ The verb *suppose* limits the action of writing to *present time*, *supposed* to *past time*, and *shall suppose* to *future time*; for the time of every one of these actions is precisely the same with that of its governing verb. Whatever therefore determines the time of the latter, must likewise determine the time of the former.

When the verb in the infinitive denotes an action *subsequent* to the governing verb, the *time* is, in some measure, determined by the *governing verb*, though not fully; as, ‘He *is, was, or will be, ordered to write*.’ Here, the *general time* of the writing is fixed by the verb *is, was, or will be*. But if it be necessary to fix the time *precisely*, we must call in the assistance of *adjuncts*, thus—‘He was

‘ordered to write *on the tenth of May*;
 ‘He is ordered to write *to-morrow*,
 ‘or *frequently* ;’ ‘He will be ordered
 ‘to write *next Christmas*.’

The same observations may be applied to the infinitives compounded with *have* ; for, as they always mean something *antecedent* to their governing verbs, their dates are in some measure regulated by those verbs, though they cannot be *absolutely fixed* without the help of *adjuncts*, thus—
 ‘He is said *to have written* a poem
 ‘*about seven years ago*, and is known
 ‘*to have been correcting* it for the *last*
 ‘*six months* ; and yet, when he prints
 ‘it, which may perhaps be a year
 ‘hence, he will probably declare the
 ‘whole of it *to have been composed*
 ‘within the *last month* before its publication.’ All the infinitives in this
 example

example denote things prior to the time of their governing verbs, and therefore have their dates in some measure limited by them; and yet the last, viz. *to have been composed*, by the connection in which it stands, is determined to mean an action, the *absolute time* of which is FUTURE.

When the infinitive mode is governed by auxiliary verbs, or by such verbs as *to see, to hear, to feel, to make*, and some others, which occur very frequently in our language, the preposition *to* is omitted; as, *I saw him write, I heard him read, I bade him speak, I made him remember*. These words, *write, read, speak*, and *remember*, are evidently in the infinitive mode, though the preposition *to* is not expressed. Again, ‘*I saw the*
‘*bird caught, and the hare killed; I*

‘saw the letter *written*, I heard it
‘*read*; I heard the words *spoken*; I
‘saw the house *built*; I saw the chil-
‘dren *washed*, and *combed*, and *un-*
‘*dressed*, and *put to bed*.’ These are
all certainly infinitives passive, and
signify that I saw the *catching* of
the bird and the *killing* of the hare;
that I saw the *writing* of the letter,
heard the *reading* of it, heard the
speaking of the words, saw the *build-*
ing of the house, and saw the *wash-*
ing, *combing*, *undressing*, and *putting to*
bed of the children.

The imperfect participle is, I think,
sometimes used as an infinitive, hav-
ing the words *to be* understood; as,
‘I saw him *writing* a letter; I heard
‘him *reading* it.’ For, when these
participles are preceded by some
other verbs, the words *to be* are in-
serted;

serted; as, 'I supposed him *to be writing*, I supposed him *to be reading*.'

This participle may perhaps be allowed sometimes to constitute the infinitive passive; as, 'I saw the house *building*, I saw preparations *making*.' For, if we change the leading verb, it will be, 'I knew the house *to be building*, I knew preparations *to be making*.'

Dr. Priestley says, in his Grammar, p. 125, "There is a remarkable ambiguity in the use of the participle preterite, as the same word may express a thing either *doing*, or *done*. *I went to see the child dressed*, may either mean, I went to see the child whilst they were putting on its clothes, or when they were put on." I humbly conceive the word *dressed* is here the *infinitive*

mode, and that it can only be understood in the former of these senses; *i. e.* I went to see the child while they were putting on its clothes. It cannot, I presume, be used in the other sense without some addition; as, *elegantly dressed, dressed in scarlet and gold, &c.* If I say, 'I saw the letter *written*, I saw the house *built*, I heard the sermon *preached*, the anthem *sung*, and the guns *fired*;' I must be understood to say, 'I saw the *writing* of the letter, and the *building* of the house;' that 'I heard the *preaching* of the sermon, the *singing* of the anthem, and the *firing* of the guns.' But if I say, 'I saw a letter written in hieroglyphics, I saw a house built of marble, and a sermon preached on the 30th of January,' the words *written*,
ten,

ten, *built*, and *preached*, are participles taken in their common acceptation; and the sentences mean, 'I saw a letter which was written in hieroglyphics, a house which was built of marble, and a sermon which had been preached on the 30th of January.'

In another place, p. 110, this eminent grammarian says, "We have
 " one word, which is used as a verb
 " in one single construction, but
 " which is very unlike a verb in
 " other respects; *I had as lief say a*
 " *thing after him as after another.*"
 " Lowth's answer to Warburton; *i. e.*
 " *I should as soon choose to say.* This
 " is a colloquial and familiar phrase,
 " and is not often found in writing."
Lief I apprehend is not a *verb*, but an
adverb, signifying *willingly*; and the
 phrase

phrase *I had as lief* is a corruption of *I'd* (which is a contraction of *I would*) as lief, &c.; so that the sentence means, I would as lief, or willingly, say a thing after him as after another.

The English imperative mode, viz. *write*, *write thou*, and *do write*, differs very little from the same mode in other languages; and therefore I think it unnecessary to make any particular remarks about it.

We shall therefore now proceed to consider the various methods which we make use of in expressing the ideas which in other languages are conveyed to the mind by what is called the subjunctive mode: and here I think it will appear that our language greatly excels, not only in
copiousness,

copiousness, but in precision and perspicuity.

This mode in Latin has at least four or five different meanings, which are rendered into English by so many different expressions, each appropriated to its own particular purpose. The present tense, *scribam*, *scribas*, *scribat*, when used optatively, is translated into English by *may he write*; when used to signify permission, by *he may write*; when used to express possibility or power, by *he can write*; and when used by way of asking permission, or intimating a wish that a person should be free from all restraints respecting an action, it is translated by *let him write*. The imperfect tense, *scriberem*, *scriberes*, *scriberet*, is likewise rendered into English by four different expressions,
might,

might, could, would, or should write; each of which clearly conveys a distinct and separate meaning.

But to do justice to this subject would require much more time and attention than I have hitherto been able to bestow upon it; I shall therefore conclude this Dissertation with two or three brief remarks.

First, The English language may be said, I think, without any great impropriety, to have as many modes as it has auxiliary verbs; for the compound expressions which they help to form, point out those modifications and circumstances of actions which in other languages are conveyed by modes.

Secondly The auxiliaries *shall, will, may, can, do, let, must, ought*, with their preterites *should, would, might,*

might, could, did, &c. have in themselves distinct and separate meanings; and are not used merely as signs of modes and tenses, but as real verbs, governing the verbs they are joined to in the infinitive. They are used indicatively in such sentences as these—‘They should have done it, ‘but they *would* not do it; They ‘*should* now do it, but they *will* not; ‘He formerly *could* do it, but now ‘he *cannot* do it; He once *might* do ‘it, but now he *may* not; He *must* ‘do it; He *ought* to do it,’ &c.—These examples, I think, prove that *might, could, would, &c.* are sometimes used as the past tense of the indicative. But the verb *to have* (originally signifying to possess), when used as an auxiliary, seems in a great measure to lose its primitive signification, and

and to answer scarcely any other purpose than that of pointing out the time of the perfect participle with which it is connected.

Thirdly, It seems worthy to be remarked, that when verbs are used *hypothetically*, or *conditionally*, they change their time one degree*; *i. e.* the pluperfect tense becomes the preterite, the preterite becomes the present, and the present tense becomes the future; as, ‘*If he had loved her, he would have married her;*’ ‘*If he loved her, he would marry her;*’ ‘*If he loves her, he will marry her;*’ ‘*If he had written yesterday, he*

* This remark may be applied, at least in some cases, to the Latin and French languages, as well as to the English.

“*Si possem, sanior essem.*” OVID.

‘*Si je pouvois, je serois plus sage.*’

‘*If I could, I would be wiser.*’

‘*would*

'would have been answered;' 'If
 'he *wrote* a letter now, he would
 'receive an answer;' 'If he *writes*
 'to-morrow, he will be answered;
 'If he *might* or *could* have done it
 'yesterday, he would have done it;
 'If he *might* or *could* do it now, he
 'would do it;' 'If he *may* or *can* do
 'it, he will do it.' *Might, could,*
would, and should, which (as we have
 shewn before) are the past tenses of *may,*
can, will, and *shall,* are but seldom
 used in indicative sentences, and very
 often in conditional ones. This I
 apprehend is the reason why Dr.
 Priestley calls them the conditional
 forms of those verbs. But as they
 are sometimes used in indicative sen-
 tences, and as all other verbs may be
 used in the conditional form, this
 name

name is not fully descriptive of their character.

Before I conclude this Dissertation, it may perhaps be necessary to make an apology for my having taken no notice of the *English subjunctive mode*. My reason for it is, that I have some doubts whether it has a real existence or not. What is called the subjunctive may possibly be only the infinitive, governed by an auxiliary verb understood; for I believe good writers never make use of the subjunctive, except in cases where these verbs may with propriety be inserted:—‘*Though he slay me (i. e. though he may slay me), yet will I trust in him;*’ ‘*If he go (i. e. if he shall go), I will follow him;*’ ‘*Though he run (i. e. though he may run), I shall overtake him.*’

To

To this hypothesis there is one objection, which, I acknowledge, appears very formidable; but it is taken from a verb which is not only irregular and defective, but used in a manner quite contrary to general analogy; I mean the auxiliary verb *were*: as, 'If I *were*, if he *were* to 'do it.' This word is substituted for the preterite tense of the defective verb *to be*; but from what root it was originally derived is uncertain*. It cannot come from the verb *to be*; for there is not the least similitude in their construction: and were I to conjecture that it may possibly be de-

* It comes to us from the German preterite tense ICH WAR, *I was*. But from whence is that derived? For it does not seem to have any affinity either with the present tense ICH BIN, *I am*; or with the infinitive mode SEYN, *to be*.

M

rived

*Am. Is. Be. Was, had
ranked in one conjugation,
and different verbs. So Sum. Elsg. Tui. are
different verbs.*

*The author
should go
to the Anglo-
Saxon and
Gothic, and
should con-
sider those
the source
things happens
in all the
languages
in the world.*

rived from the obsolete verb *to were*, which, like *put*, *set*, and many other verbs, had no variation of tenses, this conjecture might perhaps be as well founded as some others which have been thought sufficient to solve difficulties. Besides, I think, there is no other verb that has a subjunctive preterite tense, or indeed any subjunctive different from the infinitive. If therefore this verb has one, it is contrary to the general analogy of our language.

There is another important question which must not be wholly omitted: perhaps some of my readers may have expected the discussion of it, in the very entrance upon my subject. I have purposely deferred it, on account of certain difficulties which I thought might be more easily

easily solved towards the conclusion, than in the beginning, of my Dissertation. The question I mean is, WHAT IS A VERB? The definitions given of it by learned men are very different: I shall particularly consider two of them. Dr. Beattie, p. 373, defines it to be "a word, necessary in every sentence, signifying the *affirmation* of some *attribute*, together with the designation of *time*, *number*, and *person*." According to this definition, neither *infinitive modes*, nor *gerunds*, nor *supines*, nor *participles*, are verbs; for they neither contain an *affirmation*, nor signify *time*, nor are limited either to *number* or *person*.—Bishop Lowth says, "A verb is a *word* which signifies *to be*, *to do*, or *to suffer*." This definition I think a very good one. It

M 2 includes

Dr. Beattie
and Dr.
Priestley
are as little
acquainted
with the
nature of
language
as a man's
heart can
with.

includes nothing more than what is essential ; and is, therefore, equally applicable to the verb in all languages, and in *all its various forms* *.

If

* This definition not only comprehends *infinitives* and *participles*, but likewise *gerunds* and *supines*. If it has any defect, it is that it does not, in all cases, sufficiently distinguish verbs from verbal nouns. Infinitives and participles, gerunds and supines, not only signify actions, but govern the cases of nouns and pronouns, in the same manner that other verbs do, and therefore should be comprehended in the general name of verbs. But those verbal nouns which do not govern accusative cases have not the same pretensions ; for they have not the regimen of verbs, but of substantives, and consequently more properly belong to that class.

Dr. Priestley gives the following definition of a verb in the 13th page of his Grammar :
 “ A verb is a word that expresseth what is
 “ affirmed of, or attributed to, a thing.” This definition seems to me to include not only verbs, but likewise all adjectives and abstract nouns signifying qualities ; for when we say
 ‘ God

If *affirmation* be essential to verbs, I think it possible for a tolerably copious language to be formed with only *one verb* in it; for infinitives, participles, adjectives, &c. may be so united to nouns by the *copula*, or verb *is*, *alone*, as to express almost any idea which we can have occasion to communicate. But if the circumstances of *time*, *person*, and *number*, be essential to verbs, I question whether there

‘God is good,’ or ‘Goodness belongs to God,’ do not the words *good* and *goodness* express what is affirmed of, or attributed to, the Deity?

But perhaps I mistake the Doctor’s meaning. By this definition he may possibly intend only to assert that the *essence* of the verb consists in *affirmation*; but if this be his meaning, I think, with great deference to his superior judgment, it might have been expressed with more precision thus—‘*A verb is a word affirming something of, or attributing something to, a thing.*’

M 3

may

*What
inflections
grammatical
affixes.*

may not be languages in the world without a single *verb* in them; and then what shall we say to the former part of Dr. Beattie's definition, that a verb is a word *necessary in every sentence*? The professor's definition is a very good description of a *finite* verb, in any of those highly improved and polished languages with which we are conversant; and I presume it was only intended as such. But I cannot help supposing there may be languages spoken by rude uninformed savages, which are not yet in so high a state of cultivation as to be possessed of verbs so *curiously contrived*, and *artificially constructed*, as to answer that *description* *.

All

* Dr. Priestley, in his Lectures on the Theory of Language and Universal Grammar, says in a note, p. 120, "The *Malayan* tongue, " which

absolutely
impossible.

So Dr. Priestley

has been

told; but he is himself no

linguist.

All languages in their commencement must have been extremely simple. If children were so situated as to hear no human voice but their own, they would undoubtedly soon learn to communicate their thoughts to each other by sounds, as well as by signs; but their first efforts of speech would be very imperfect. Probably *nouns*, or the *names of things*, *adjectives* expressing their *qualities*, and *verbs* denoting their *actions*, would be first invented.

“ which is of great extent, and in great esteem
 “ in the *East Indies*, far exceeds our northern
 “ *European* tongues in simplicity; for, in that
 “ language, the verb itself admits of no modification
 “ whatever, on account either of person,
 “ tense, or voice: in all these respects the personal
 “ pronouns only, with particles prefixed,
 “ determine the sense.”

Dr. Adam Smith, in a very curious treatise on the Formation of Languages, printed in 1781 at the end of his Theory of Moral Sentiments, observes, p. 459, "Verbs
 " must necessarily have been coëval
 " with the very first attempts to-
 " wards the formation of language.
 " No affirmation can be expressed
 " without the assistance of some
 " verb. We never speak but in
 " order to express our opinion that
 " something either is or is not. But
 " the word denoting this event, or
 " this matter of fact, which is the
 " subject of our affirmation, must al-
 " ways be a verb." This observa-
 tion is undoubtedly just, so far as it
 respects the *copula*, or verb of ex-
 istence, is. But this was not the
 meaning of the ingenious author;
 for,

deplorably
 superficial,
 and igno-
 rant.

for, in page 469, he adds, "There is
 " in every language a verb, known
 " by the name of the substantive
 " verb; in Latin, *sum*; in English,
 " *I am*. This verb denotes not the
 " existence of any particular event,
 " but existence in general. It is, up-
 " on this account, the most abstract
 " and metaphysical of all verbs; and,
 " consequently, could by no means
 " be a word of early invention."
 But, though the Doctor says it could
 by no means be a word of early in-
 vention, yet he acknowledges (in my
 humble apprehension, not very con-
 sistently), that it is in every language,
 and consequently in languages which
 are in their earliest infancy. If it
 was not of early invention, there was
 a time when conversation was carried
 on without it: and, if such a lan-
 guage

guage ever did exist, why may not such a one now exist?

When I controvert an opinion supported by such respectable authority, it becomes me to speak with diffidence. But the more attentively I consider this subject, the more clearly it appears to me, that the verb substantive, or copula, *is*, is not only the most necessary, but the most simple of all verbs; for it contains nothing more than an assertion, or affirmation, that a thing exists: and no proposition can be more simple than this, that a thing is, or is not; exists, or does not exist. The idea conveyed by it is coëval with thought itself; for what can we think about, unless we think that something is, or exists? And it is so simple, that it is incapable of any division, or explanation;

*by no means
respectable.*

nation ; and as fully comprehended by the rudest savage, as by the most enlightened philosopher.

The copula, or verb of existence, *is*, appears, therefore, to have been coëval with language itself. But we have not the same evidence to convince us that that must necessarily have been the case of any other finite verb ; for the copula *is*, containing only an affirmation, is much more simple than a verb which unites in one word both an attribute and an affirmation. Since, therefore, people, in their first attempts to express their ideas by words, would scarcely think of any thing more than what was absolutely necessary, it is probable they would be some time before they invented any other word containing in itself an assertion or affirmation :
for

for they would not very early think of contriving words so *complex* in their nature, as to include in them both the *name* of an *action* and an *assertion*.

I conjecture that the first mode of expressing actions or passions would be by *participles* or *verbal nouns*, i. e. words signifying the *names* of the *actions* or *passions* they wanted to describe: and these words, connected with their subject by the copula *is* (a word, as we have shewn coëval with speech itself), might, in these rude beginnings of language, tolerably well supply the place of verbs. *e. g.* From observing the operations of nature, such words as *rain* or *raining*, *thunder* or *thundering*, would soon be invented; and, by adding the copula *is*, they would say, *thundering*,

dering, or *thunder*, *is*, or *is not*; *rain-
ing*, or *rain*, *is*; which, by the rapi-
dity of pronunciation, might in time
form the verbs *rains*, *thunders*, &c.
The observation of their own *actions*,
or the *actions* of the animals around
them, would soon increase their stock
of ideas, and put them upon con-
triving suitable expressions for them.
Hence might arise such words as
these: *sleep*, or *sleeping*; *stand*, or *stand-
ing*; *run*, or *running*; *bite*, or *biting*;
hurt, or *hurting*: and by joining
these to substantives, by means of the
copula *is*, they might form such sen-
tences as these—*Lion is sleeping*, or
perhaps *Lion sleep is*, *stand is*, &c.;
which would soon be contracted into
Lion sleeps, *stands*, *runs*, *bites*, *hurts*,
&c. Thus our little insulated family
might become possessed of verbs in-
cluding

cluding an *attribute* and an *affirmation* in one word.—But these are not such verbs as Dr. Beattie pronounces to be necessary in every sentence ; for they are not yet limited either to *time*, *number*, or *person*.

The next step would probably be a distinction between actions in their *progressive* and in their *finished* state ; *i. e.* actions *going on* in their presence, and perceived by their *senses* ; and such as were *ended*, and consequently only known to them by *memory*, by *report*, or by their *effects* : and they might perhaps apply such words as *raining*, *thundering*, *sleeping*, &c. to the former kind of actions ; and such as *rained*, *thundered*, *slept*, &c. to the latter. And by joining the copula *is* to these words signifying perfect actions, in the same manner in which

which they had joined it before to the words signifying imperfect ones, and afterwards contracting them into single words, they might soon acquire a verb expressing a finished action and an affirmation in one word. This improvement would probably suggest to them the idea of making such further alterations in, or additions to, their verbs, as would make them significant of all the grand divisions of time.

But still their verbs would have neither *person* nor *number*, and would probably remain in that state till the invention of pronouns. But this, requiring some degree of abstraction, would probably not happen very early; for, in their first efforts to express themselves, they would be more likely to say, '*Thomas* loves
' *William*

‘*William and Henry,*’ than ‘*I love thee*
‘and *him.*’ However, in process of
time, pronouns would no doubt be
introduced: and they might per-
haps make such alterations in their
verbs, as to accommodate them to
their numbers and persons, though
such an accommodation does not
seem absolutely necessary; for, if
custom authorised it, I do not know
that there would be any more in-
convenience or ambiguity in saying,
‘*I love, thou love, he love,*’ than there
is in saying, ‘*We love, ye love, they*
‘*love.*’ Languages may therefore
exist which do not vary their verbs
to express either number or person.
And, further, I think it *possible* that
there may be languages so construct-
ed as not to admit any variation in
their verbs, even to express *time*;
for

for if the verb only contains, in itself, an assertion and an attribute, the time of it may be fixed by adverbs and other adjuncts. I conclude, therefore, that a definition applicable to the verb in all languages, and in all its forms, cannot comprehend in it any thing more than what Bishop Lowth has expressed by saying, "A verb is a word signifying *to be, to do, or to suffer**."

Perhaps it may be said, that what I have here advanced, on the origin

* This is not very different from the definition of a verb given us by Greenwood in his English Grammar, page 112—"A *verb* is a part of speech that is used to signify the being or state of things or persons, their actions, or the impressions that they receive.

" Or you may take it thus :

" A verb is a word that betokeneth *being, doing, or suffering*."

N

of

of verbs, is in a great measure fancy and conjecture. I grant it. And I further admit, that in different countries they may probably have originated in different ways, and arrived at very different degrees of perfection. All I aim to prove is, the *possibility* that languages may exist, the verbs of which do not possess all the properties belonging to verbs in the highly polished languages of Europe; and that a general definition should include nothing but what is essential to the verb in all *possible* cases.

I shall conclude this Dissertation with briefly noticing the ingenious hypothesis of Dr. Adam Smith, concerning the origin of verbs. For though it differs considerably from the conjecture which I have hazarded, and does not appear to me
so

so likely to have happened in the first formation of any language, yet it is equally well calculated to shew the progressive state of the verb; and the different degrees of perfection it may have arrived at in different situations. In the 459th page he thus treats the subject:

“ Impersonal verbs, which express
 “ in one word a complete event,
 “ which preserve in the expression
 “ that perfect simplicity and unity
 “ which there always is in the object
 “ and in the idea, and which suppose
 “ no abstraction, or metaphysical division
 “ of the event into its several
 “ constituent members of subject and
 “ attribute, would, in all probability,
 “ be the species of verbs first invented.
 “ The verbs *pluit, it rains;*
 “ *ningit, it snows; tonat, it thunders;*

N 2

“ *lucet,*

" *lucet, it is day ; turbatur, there is*
 " *a confusion, &c.* each of them ex-
 " press a complete affirmation, the
 " whole of an event, with that per-
 " fect simplicity and unity with
 " which the mind conceives it in
 " nature. On the contrary, the
 " phrases, *Alexander ambulat, Alexan-*
 " *der walks ; Petrus sedet, Peter sits,*
 " divide the event, as it were, into
 " two parts, the person or subject,
 " and the attribute, or matter of fact
 " affirmed of that subject. But, in
 " nature, the idea or conception of
 " Alexander walking, is as perfectly
 " and completely one simple concep-
 " tion, as that of Alexander not
 " walking. The division of this
 " event, therefore, into two parts, is
 " altogether artificial, and is the ef-
 " fect of the imperfection of lan-
 " guage ;

“ guage ; which, upon this, as upon
 “ many other occasions, supplies, by
 “ a number of words, the want of
 “ one, which could express at once
 “ the whole matter of fact that was
 “ meant to be affirmed.”

In the infancy of language, it seems most probable that no word would, at the same time, be used to signify more than one single idea ; for wherever ideas must necessarily, in the operations of the mind, be divided, and considered separately, it is probable men would endeavour, at first, to express them by separate words appropriated to each of them. Words, therefore, so complex in their nature as to contain in them more than one single idea, would not probably be very early invented. The copula, or substantive verb, *is*,

as we have before observed, is the simplest of all verbs; for it contains in it nothing more than the bare affirmation of existence; *i. e.* that a thing is, or is not; exists, or does not exist. This verb, therefore, must necessarily have been contemporary with the first efforts of mankind to express their ideas by words. Without this we cannot unite an adjective to a substantive, or affirm that any thing is good, or bad, or possesses any quality whatever, or even exists. But this is the only verb, containing an affirmation, which is so perfectly simple in its nature as not to comprehend, at least, two ideas, which may be easily separated, nay which must necessarily be separated, in the operations of the mind, whenever it endeavours to express them.

them. *Pluit, it rains, or is raining*, comprehends the idea which the mind forms of that operation of nature which we call rain or raining, and likewise an affirmation of the judgment which the mind forms concerning its present existence; and therefore cannot be expressed more simply and naturally than by *is raining, or rain is*, which is easily contracted into, *rains*.

The sentences, *Alexander ambulat*, and *Alexander sedet*, each of them, evidently consist of three parts; a noun, an attribute, and an affirmation: and, therefore, cannot be expressed in any manner more agreeable to the simplicity of nature than by *Alexander is walking, Alexander is sitting*. In each of these sentences, the ideas of the subject *Alexander*,

the attribute *walking* or *sitting*, and the affirmation, or determination of the mind in uniting them together, are perfectly distinct, and are, therefore, most naturally expressed by three distinct words.

Such is the rapidity of thought, that ideas pass through the mind almost imperceptibly. But, if the most uninformed rustic should pronounce these words, *Alexander is walking*; and immediately after be asked, whether, at the time of his speaking, he had not in his mind a notion of what was meant by *Alexander*, and likewise a notion of what was meant by the word *walking*, and whether he did not exercise his judgment in *joining* them together; after some recollection, he would answer, *Yes*.

In

An "impercep-
tible
I do 2"
appears to
me to be
tantamount
to - an I do 2
which is not
an I do 2

In the infancy of society, men's ideas must necessarily have been very few; but to express them with precision, at that time, probably required more words than are now necessary for that purpose. I can easily conceive, that what a savage would express in three words, a philosopher would more fully express in one; but I can have no conception of the contrary. For I do not consider inarticulate sounds, such as *shouts, howls, shrieks, screams, groans*, and other similar expressions of sudden *joy, surprise, terror, fear, pain, grief, &c.* as any part of that language about which I am writing. This mode of expressing our sensations is common to us with the brute creation; and this is the only way by which nature expresses *the whole of an event in one word.*

*Just as
many as
they can
ever be.*

word. For if, in any instances, savages express their ideas in fewer words than polished nations do, it is because they express them with less precision.

In the next page Dr. Smith remarks—"It is easy to conceive how, "in the progress of language, those "impersonal verbs should become "personal. Let us suppose, for example, that the word *venit*, *it comes*, "was originally an impersonal verb, "and that it denoted, not the coming of something in general, as at "present, but the coming of a particular object, such as *the lion*. The "first savage inventors of language, "we shall suppose, when they observed the approach of this terrible "animal, were accustomed to cry "out to one another, *venit!* that is,

" *the*

“ *the lion comes!* and that this word
“ thus expressed a complete event,
“ without the assistance of any other.
“ Afterwards, when, on the further
“ progress of language, they had
“ begun to give names to particular
“ substances, whenever they observed
“ the approach of any other terrible
“ object, they would naturally join
“ the name of that object to the
“ word *venit*, and cry out, *venit ursus*,
“ *venit lupus*. By degrees, the word
“ *venit* would thus come to signify
“ the coming of any terrible object,
“ and not merely the coming of the
“ lion. It would now, therefore,
“ express, not the coming of a par-
“ ticular object, but the coming of
“ an object of a particular kind.
“ Having become more general in
“ its signification, it could no longer
“ represent

“represent any particular distinct
 “event by itself, and without the
 “assistance of a noun substantive,
 “which might serve to ascertain
 “and determine its signification. It
 “would now, therefore, have be-
 “come a personal, instead of an im-
 “personal verb. We may easily
 “conceive how, in the further pro-
 “gress of society, it might still grow
 “more general in its signification;
 “and come to signify, as at present,
 “the approach of any thing what-
 “ever, whether good, bad, or indif-
 “ferent.”

This account of the origin of the
 word *venit*, *it comes*, is ingenious,
 but is it natural?—In those places
 where human beings exist, the ap-
 proach of a lion is an event which
 seldom happens: whereas no day
 passes

passes in which men may not observe ten thousand instances of the approach of inoffensive animals; for scarcely can any creature move without *coming* nearer to, or *going* further from us: verbs, therefore, signifying *to come*, and *to go*, would probably be among the first which were invented. But which is the most natural—to suppose them to be derived from what happened ten thousand times every day, or from what happened scarcely once in a year? It may be said, the coming of a lion is a tremendous event, and therefore must make a very strong impression on the mind; and consequently, though happening but seldom, be more likely to give origin to new words, than common occurrences are. The first attack which the
lion

lion made upon the human species must, no doubt, have struck them with extreme horror; but horror too great for speech, more especially for infant speech, to signify: and which must necessarily have burst out in inarticulate *shrieks*, or *screams*, that strong energetic language which nature has given not only to man, but to the brute creation, to express sensations beyond the reach of words to utter. But it may be said, this first inarticulate exclamation of horror might afterwards give rise to a word similar to it in sound. Probably it might do it: but what is most likely to be the use of such a word? I conceive it to be the most natural for it to become the name of the passion which was excited, or of the animal which excited it. This
is

is far more probable than that it should be converted into *venit*, *it comes*, a verb signifying one of the most inoffensive and familiar events in human life.

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T H E

A P P E N D I X.

FRENCH PARTICIPLES.

THERE is a very great affinity between the French and English participles. The French participle in *ant* corresponds to the English participle in *ing* in every respect, except that it is never taken in a passive sense, nor used in forming compound tenses of verbs; for 'The house is *'building'* cannot be translated by

O 'La

‘La maison est *batissante* ;’ nor can ‘I am *writing*’ be translated by ‘Je suis *écrivant*.’

The French perfect participle (commonly ending in *é*) answers precisely to the English perfect participle (usually ending in *ed*). There is not only a general resemblance, but a very minute and particular one, in all respects ; except that French participles are sometimes declined, whereas ours are never altered to accommodate them to substantives. And in nothing is the similitude more worthy of notice, than in that extraordinary quality belonging to the perfect participles of both languages, which enables them to be applied, with equal propriety, and with almost equal frequency, either in an *active* or *passive* sense. For when they are
united

united to any of the tenses of the auxiliary verb *avoir*, *to have*, they are used in an active sense; in all other cases they are passive: as, '*J'ai aimé*, *I have loved*;' '*Je suis aimé*, *I am loved*.'

The French compound participles likewise very much resemble ours; as, '*Ayant aimé*, *having loved*;' '*étant aimé*, *being loved*;' '*Ayant été aimé*, *having been loved*.'

LATIN PARTICIPLES.

The Latin language has four participles, all of which (like the French and English participles) are equally applicable to either past, present, or future time.

and how many more?

THE PARTICIPLE IN *ns*.

The participle ending in *ns* (generally answering to our participle in *ing*) denotes the imperfect or unfinished state of a past, present, or future action; *i. e.* it represents the action as begun, going on, but not ended, at a certain time specified by some other verb. This participle may, indeed, be said to ascertain the *relative* time of the action; but it does not in the least fix its *absolute* time: *i. e.* it signifies an action contemporary with some other action either past, present, or future; but the absolute time of the action is not determined by the participle, but by the finite verb with which it is connected; as,
' *Stabat flens*, he stood weeping;
' *Stat*

‘*Stat flens*, he stands weeping;’ ‘*Stabit flens*, he will stand weeping.’ Here the time is not determined by the participle *flens*, but by the verbs *stabat*, *stat*, and *stabit*. If the adjective *tristis*, *sorrowful*, had been used, instead of the participle *flens*, the time would have been full as well ascertained, and the sense not very different; and yet no person will contend that the adjective *tristis* is expressive of time *.

The

* Adjectives may be said to signify time relatively, in the same sense that participles do; for they represent qualities contemporary in existence with the substantives and verbs to which they are united; as, ‘He was *rich* yesterday, but now he is *poor*;’ ‘Yesterday he was thought to be a *good* man, but now he is thought to be a *bad* one.’ Here the adjectives *rich*, *poor*, *good*, and *bad*, represent qualities contemporary in existence with the verbs *was*

The following classical authorities will, I think, sufficiently justify what has been advanced concerning this participle.

and *is*, *was thought* and *is thought*; and they are, I think, as significant of time as the participles *writing* and *reading* are in the following sentence: 'He was *writing* yesterday, but now 'he is *reading*.'

Names of things should never be changed without necessity; I therefore have no objection to this participle's being called the participle present. But to prevent the learner from being deceived by that name, he should be informed that it may, with equal propriety, be used to signify an action that was present yesterday, that is present now, or that will be present to-morrow.

The time of this participle is precisely the same with that of the verb with which it is connected; and the time of that verb, in general, depends on its termination, though it is often more minutely fixed by adjuncts.

The

*The Participle in NS applied to Past Actions *.*

“*Dimicans* cecidit.” JUSTIN.

“*Athenienses ædificantes* prohibere
“*funt conati.*” NEPOS.

“*Cedenſque* animadverteret quen-
“*dam ſcribentem.*” ID.

“*Hos clam Xerxi remiſit, ſimulans*
“*ex vinculis publicis effugiſſe.*” ID.

“*Quem conſul in expeditionem*
“*proſciſcens pro prætore reliquerat.*”

SALLUST.

“*Diſcedens* chlamidemque auro dedit intertex-
“*tum.*” VIRGIL.

“*Hoc dicens,* eduxit corpore telum.” ID.

* If the reader ſhould think theſe quotations too numerous, he may omit any part of them, without injuring the connection. Perhaps to ſome perſons ſo large a collection may not be unacceptable.

" Ille pedem *referens* cedebat." VIRGIL.

" At verò ut vultum vidit *morientis* et ora,

" Ora modis Anchisiades *pallentia* miris,

" Ingemuit *miserans* graviter, dextramque te-

" tendit."

ID.

" At Laufum socii exanimum super arma fere-

" bant

" *Flentes*."——

ID.

" Procubuit *moriens*."

ID.

" Fulgebatque altâ *decurrens* aureus arce. ID.

" Dixit, et adversos telum contorfit in hostes

" *Procurrens*."

ID.

—— " *Conantem* virgâ mulcere capillos

" Repulit."

OVID.

" *Volventes* hostilia cadavera, ami-

" cum alii, pars hospitem aut cog-

" natum, reperiabant." SALLUST.

" His *consulentibus* nominatim Py-

" thia præcepit."

NEPOS.

" Illi *irridentes* responderunt, tum

" id se facturos, quum ille domo na-

" vibus *proficiscens* vento aquilone

" venisset Lemnum." ID.—In this

sentence

sentence *irridentes* is applied to past time, and *proficiscens* to future time.

“Ecce *furens* animis aderat Tirynthius, om-

“nemque

“Accessum *lustrans* huc ora ferebat et illuc,

“Dentibus *infrendens*.” VIRGIL.

—— “Paterasque *tenentes*

“Stabant.”—— ID.

“Nam ita *decedens* præceperat optimus armis.”

ID.

“*Ferventi moriens* è vulnere traxit.” OVID.

“Ille tibi *moriens* nos commendavit senex.”

TER.

“Quem *dantem* terga retraxi.” OVID.

—— “*Ræctum vigilantem* et cuncta *videntem*,

“Sed magnum *metuens*, se post cratera tegebat;

“Pectore in adverso totum cui cominus enssem

“Condidit *assurgenti*, et multa morte recepit.”

VIRGIL.

“Hunc procul *errantem* rabiðæ *venantis* Iuli

“Commovere canes.” ID.

“Hanc rem ægrè *ferens* Pausanias

“querelam sæpè detulerat.” JUSTIN.

“Hæc

"Hæc populus *respiciens*, maluit
 "eum innoxium pecti, quam se diu-
 "tiùs esse in timore." NEPOS.

"Totum se deditit reipublicæ, di-
 "ligentiùs amicis famæque *serviens*."
 ID.

"Puerum inde *abiens* conveni." TER.
 "Sed postquam *amans* accessit, pretium *polli-*
 "*cens*." ID.

"Tertium hunc jam annum *reg-*
 "*nantem* inimici palam, multis etiam
 "ex civitate auctoribus, interfece-
 "runt." CÆSAR.

"Sed eos *fugientes* longiùs Cæsar
 "persequi vetuit." ID.

"Cui commendavi filium hinc *abiens* meum."
 TER.

"Ille *lacrymans* talem benevolen-
 "tiam civium fuorum accipiebat, *re-*
 "*miniscens* pristini temporis acerbita-
 "tem." NEPOS.

"Ego te complureis advorsum ingenium meum
 "mensures tuli

"*Pollicitantem*, et nil *ferentem*, *flentem*." TER.
 —"Cunctis

— “Cunctis nam lecti navibus ibant

“*Orantes* veniam.” VIRGIL.

“Emicuit, parmamque *ferens* hastamque *tre-*
“*mentem.*” ID.

“Cui Alexander *moriens* annulum
“suum dederat.” NEPOS.

“Primum ratio habebatur, qui
“maximus natus esset ex liberis ejus,
“qui *regnans* decessisset. Mortuus
“erat Agis rex, frater Agefilai; fili-
“um reliquerat Leotychidem, quem
“ille *vivens* non agnôrat; eundem,
“*moriens*, suum esse dixerat.” ID.

“Sic equidem ducebam animo rebarque futu-
“rum,

“Tempora *dinumerans.*” VIRGIL.

“Sic *memorans*, largo fletu simul ora rigabat.”
ID.

*The Participle in NS applied to Present
Actions.*

— “*Flentem flentes* ampleximur illum,

“Hæremusque ducis collo.” OVID.
The

*The Participle in NS applied to Future
Actions.*

— “ Inque futuri

“ Temporis ætatem, venturorumque nepotum,

“ *Prospiciens*, prolem sanctâ de conjuge natam

“ Ferre simul nomen suum curasque jubebit.”

OVID.

“ Nam te *scientem* faciam quicquid egero.”

TER.

“ Etiam caves, ne videat fortè hinc te à patre

“ aliquis

“ *Exiens*.” —

ID.

— “ Ultrò ad eam venies, *indicans*

“ Te amare.”

ID.

“ Ut tu sis *sciens*.”

ID.

“ Interea usque illi de me supplicium dabo,

“ *Laborans, quærens, parcens, illi serviens*.” ID.

— “ Cum hinc *egens*

“ Profugiet aliquo militatum.”

ID.

“ Tu inter eas restim *duclans* saltabis.” ID.

“ Nempè *tenens* quod amo, gremioque in la-

“ sonis *hærens*,

“ Per freta longa ferar.”

OVID.

THE

THE PARTICIPLE IN *us*.

The participle ending in *us* denotes the perfect or finished state of an action. If derived from an active verb, it has a passive signification; but, if it comes from a deponent verb, its meaning is generally active. It may with equal propriety be applied to past, present, or future time. For though it may be said to express time *relatively*, as it always signifies the completion of an action, and consequently represents it as contemporary with, or prior to, the verb with which it is connected, yet its *absolute* time depends either upon that verb, or some other part of the sentence—thus: ‘*Stabat armatus,*
“ *he*

‘*he stood armed* ;’ ‘*Stat armatus, he stands armed* ;’ ‘*Stabit armatus, he will stand armed.*’ The time is not here determined by the participle *armatus*, but by the verbs *stabat*, *stat*, and *stabit* : for if we say, ‘*Stabat inermis, he stood unarmed* ;’ ‘*Stat inermis, he stands unarmed* ;’ ‘*Stabit inermis, he will stand unarmed* ;’ the difference of time will be as well ascertained as in the former instance. The participle *armatus* is not therefore more significant of time in one case, than the adjective *inermis* is in the other.

Cæsar, in one single sentence, furnishes an example of the application of this participle to all these divisions of time : “*Ille veritus, quod ad plures res pertinebat, ne civitas eorum impulsu deficeret, Lucium Plan-*
cum cum legione ex Belgio celeriter”

“ter in Carnutes proficisci jubet, ibi-
 “que hiemare; quorumque operâ
 “cognoverit Tasgetium *interfectum*,
 “hos *comprehensos* ad se mittere.”
Veritus means present time, *interfec-*
tum past time, and *comprehensos* future
 time.

In the following passage from the
 same author, all the participles in *us*
 refer to past time: “Helvetii cum
 “omnibus suis carris *secuti*, impedi-
 “menta in unum locum contulerunt.
 “Ipsi, confertissimâ acie *rejectione* nostro
 “equitatu, phalange *factâ*, sub pri-
 “mam nostram aciem successerunt.
 “Cæsar, primum suo, deinde omnium,
 “è conspectu *remotis* equis, ut, *equato*
 “periculo, spem fugæ tolleret; *co-*
 “hortatus suos, prælium commisit.
 “Romani *conversa* signa tripartitò in-
 “tulerunt: prima ac secunda acies,
 “ut

“ ut *victis* ac *submotis* resisteret ;
“ tia, ut venientes exciperet.”

The time of this participle does not always depend merely upon the verb with which it is connected, but is sometimes more minutely fixed by some other part of the sentence. For, as this participle, in itself, only expresses the completion of an action, at, or before, the time of the principal verb, it may sometimes be necessary to fix the date of the action more particularly than it is marked by that verb alone—thus :

“ *Primâ nocte* ex castris Helvetio-
“ rum *egressi*, ad Rhenum finesque
“ Germanorum contenderunt.”

CÆSAR.

Here the precise time of *egressi* is ascertained by the words *primâ nocte*.

“ *Seriùs*

"Seriùs *egressus*, vestigia vidit in alto
 "Pulvere certa feræ, totoque expalluit ore."

OVID.

Here *seriùs* marks the time of *egressus*.

In the following sentences *perfect participles* are joined to verbs of the *present tense* :

"Infert se *septus* nebulâ."

VIRGIL.

"Iis rebus *adducti*, non prius Viri-
 "donicem reliquosque duces ex con-
 "cilio dimittunt, quam ab his fit
 "concessum arma uti capiant, et ad
 "castra contendunt. Qua re *conces-*
 "sa, læti, velut *exploratâ* victoriâ,
 "farmentis virgultisque *collectis*, qui-
 "bus fossas Romanorum compleant,
 "ad castra pergunt."

CÆSAR.

"Furit Æneas, *tectus*que tenet se."

VIRG.

"Littus adit Laurens, ubi *tectus* arundine
 "serpit

"In freta flumineis vicina Numicius undis."

OVID.

P

"Cymothoë

"Cymothoë simul, et Triton *adnexus*, acuto

"Detrudunt naves scopulo." VIRG.

"Apud illum sunt ambo : ego *desertus* sum."

TER.

"Cujus nunc miseræ spes opesque sunt in te

"uno omnes *sitæ*." ID.

"Tandem dat manus Cotta *per-*
"motus." CÆSAR.

"Hæc fides, et hæc ratio pecunia-
"rum, quæ Romæ, quæ in foro ver-

"satur, *implicita* est cum illis pecuniis

"Asiaticis, et coheret : ruere illa non

"possunt ; ut hæc, non eodem *labe-*

"*factata* motu, confidant." CIC.

"In te spes omnis, Hægio, nobis *sita* est."

TER.

"Clam in Numidiam Bomilcarem

"dimittat, *veritus* ne reliquos popu-

"laris metus invaderet parendi sibi."

SALLUST.

"Eo modo *instructus*, ad Thalam

"proficiscitur." ID.

"Ac

"Ac veluti pleno lupo *insidiatus* ovili

"Cum fremit ad caulas, ventos *perpessus* et im-
"bres." VIRG.

"Intorquet, summis *adnexus* viribus, hastam." ID.

"*Veritus* itaque multitudinis im-
"petum, denuò in voluntarium exi-
"lium proficiscitur." JUSTIN.

"Ita sum *irritatus*, animum ut nequeam ad co-
"gitandum instituere." TER.

"Dum stupet, obtutuque heret *defixus* in uno." VIRG.

"Sternuntur segetes, et *deplorata* coloni

"Vota jacent; longique labor perit irritus
"anni." OVID.

"*Expatata* ruunt per *apertos* flumina cam-
"pos." ID.

"Incurfant ramis, *agitataque* robora pulfant." ID.

"Qui tamen insequitur, pennis *adjutus* amoris,
"Ocior est." ID.

"Alter in ambiguo est, an sit *deprensus*." ID.

"*Complexusque* suis ramos, ut membra, lacertis,
"Oscula dat ligno." ID.

"Quem petit, et summis *adnexus* viribus urget."

VIRG.

— "Strophades Graio stant nomine *diētæ*."

ID.

— "Parent ambo, baculisque *levati*

"Nituntur longo vestigia ponere clivo." OV.

Perfect Participles used to signify Future Actions.

"Muneribus servos corrumpam; non, hodiè si
" *Exclusus* fuero, desistam: tempora queram."

HOR.

"Nemo ex hoc numero mihi non *donatus* abi-
" bit."

VIRG.

"Qui species alias veris, scelerisque tumultu

" *Permissas* capiet, *commotus* habebitur." HOR.

"Littoreis ingens *inventæ* sub ilicibus sus,

"Triginta capitum *foetus enixa* jacebit." VIRG.

"Romanique ducis conjux *Ægyptia* tædæ

"Non benè *fissa* cadet; frustra erit illa mi-
" *nata*

"Servitura suo capitolia nostra canopo." OV.

"Ubi erunt *egressi* foras."

TER.

"Solve

"Solve metus, atque hoc precibus sine posse
"parentem

"Ne cursu *quassatæ* ullo neu turbine venti

"Vincantur : profit nostris in montibus or-
"tas." VIRG.

"Imo ubi *defunctæ* finem portusque tenebunt."
ID.

"Si quid meque vobisque dignum
"petiveris, haud *repulsus* abibis."

SALLUST.

"Et quod erit *jussus*, jubeas, licet omnia, fiet."
OVID.

— "Quo cum tellus erit *usa* fruuntur

"Ætheriæ sedes." — ID.

— "Namque urbe *receptus*

"Rex eris." — ID.

"Argentum ei *datum* erit." TER.

"Ubi ea causa, quamobrem hæc faciunt, erit
"ademta his, desinent." ID.

"Vivacemque animam *missis* elidite filvis."
OVID.

"Quærere instituit, sociisque *exacta* referre."
VIRG.

— "Malâ ducis avi domum,

"Quam multo repetet Græcia milite,

" *Conjurata* tuas rumpere nuptias,

" Et regnum Priami vetus." HOR.

" Nam et illi animam jam relevabis, quæ do-

" lore ac miserâ

" Tabescit; et tu officio fueris *functus*." TER.

" Atque his imperat, ut, *coactis*

" omnibus copiis, castra novalia de

" improvise adorianatur atque oppug-

" nent." CÆSAR.

" Quin, ubi *transmissæ* steterint trans æquora

" classes,

" Et *positis* aris jam vota in littore solves;

" Purpureo velare comas *adopertus* amictu."

VIRG.

" Delebit tabulas *inclusus* carcere nascæ." JUV.

" Hujus de virtutibus vitæque satis

" erit *dictum*, si hoc unum adjunxero."

NEPOS.

" Et natale solum ventis *ablata* relinquam?

" Magna sequar; titulum *servatæ* pubis Achi-

" væ, &c.

" — nihil illum *amplexa* verebor." OVID.

" Auro *repensus* scilicet acrior

" Miles redibit?

HOR.

" Italo

"Italo *commixtus* sanguine surget." VIRG.

"Quem res plus nimio delectavere secundæ,

"*Mutata* quatient." HOR.

"Prodigiis *acti* cœlestibus, ossa piabunt." VIRG.

"Quibus te brevi tempore *consec-*
tum esse senties." CIC.

"Ut Catalinæ profectione omnia
"*patefacta, illustrata, oppressa, vindicata*
esse videatis." ID.

"Propterea quod pericula facile,
"ut hominem præstare oportet, in-
nocentiâ *tecli* pellemus." ID.

"Sed nisi hæc urbs *stabilita* tuis
"consiliis et institutis erit, vagabitur
"modo nomen tuum longè atque
"latè." ID.

"Ita Jugurtham aut presidiiis *nu-*
"datum, si ea pateretur, aut prelio
"certaturum." SALLUST.

"Omniaque quæ postulâssent ab
"se, fore *parata*." CÆSAR.

“ Huic mandat, ut, *exploratis* omnibus rebus, ad se quam primum revertatur.”

CÆSAR.

“ Proficiscitur autem Cretam, ibique perpetuum exilium egit ; abjicique in mare ossa sua moriens jussit, ne, *relatis* Lacedæmonem, *solutos* se Spartani religione jurisdici, in *dissolvendis* legibus, arbitrentur.”

JUSTIN.

“ Cave quidquam *admiratus* sis.”

TER.

“ Tibi erunt *parata* verba, huic homini verbera.”

ID.

THE PARTICIPLE IN *rus*.

The participle in *rus* may be applied to either past, present, or future time ; as, ‘ *Scripturus fuit* *,’ or ‘ *erat*,

* *Fuit*, though seldom used with the perfect participle, is as commonly joined to the participles

'*erat*, he *was about to write*;' '*Scripturus est*, he *is about to write*;' '*Scripturus erit*, he *will be about to write*.'

This participle does not signify real action; but, when applied to things depending on the will of free agents, it expresses readiness and preparation with intention to act: and, when applied to involuntary actions, it does not foretel a certain future event, but expresses the probability of its happening. That it does not express real action, or declare a certain futurity of event, appears from the common use which is made of it: thus, a man may have been *scripturus*, *about to write*; and a house

ciples in *rus* and *dus* as *erat*: for these two participles may, like adjectives, be united with any tense of the verb *sum*, taken in its common acceptation.

may

may have been *casura*, *about to fall*; but, by the intervention of something, both the writing and the fall may have been prevented. Many classical authorities might be produced to establish this point: I shall mention a few, which I think will be sufficient.

"Me miserum! *dicturus* erat: vox nulla secuta est;
 "Ingemuit; vox illa fuit; lacrymæque per ora
 "Non sua fluxerunt." OVID.

"Talia *dicturus*, vidit Cyllenius omnes
 "Succubuisse oculos, adopertaque lumina somno.
 "Suppressit extemplò vocem." ID.

"Quid cuperet *fassura* fuit. Ne posset adire
 "Cursus fecit equi, circumfususque fatelles." ID.

"Sola Venus portæ cecidisse repagula sensit,
 "Et *clausura* fuit; nisi quod rescindere nunquam
 "Diis licet acta Deum." ID.

"Mox eadem Teucras fuerat *mersura* carinas;
 "Ni prius in scopulum, qui nunc quoque sax-
 "eus extat,

"Transformata foret." ID.

"Inde

"Inde Thebas exercitum con-
 "vertit, eâdem indulgentiâ *usurus*,
 "si parem pœnitentiam invenisset.

"Sed, &c."

JUSTIN.

"Jamque erat in totas *sparsurus* fulmina terras;

"Sed timuit, ne fortè sacer tot ab ignibus æther

"Conciperet flammæ, longusque ardesceret

"axis;

"Tela reponuntur manibus fabricata Cyclo-

"pum."

OVID.

"Plura *locuturum* timido Peneia cursu

"Fugit; cumque ipso verba imperfecta reli-

"quit."

ID.

"Vulnifico fuerat *fixurus* pectora telo;

"Arcuit omnipotens."

ID.

"Quos super atra filæ jamjam *lapsura* caden-

"tique

"Imminet affimilis."

VIRG.

This participle, therefore, neither signifies real action, nor certain futurity of event; for, in the instances just now quoted, the actions to which it seems to have had a relation never happened.

happened. The proper use of it is to express readiness and disposition for action, or probability of event; it therefore always means something contemporary with the verb to which it is joined. If it be joined to a verb of the present tense, it means a present readiness and disposition for action, or a present probability of event; as, '*Lecturus sum, I am about to read,*' i. e. I am now ready and disposed to read; '*Domus casura est, the house is going to fall,*' i. e. it is ready or likely to fall. If it be joined to a verb of a preterite tense, it means a readiness and disposition for action, or a probability of event which existed at a certain past time; as, '*Lecturus eram, I was going to read,*' i. e. yesterday, or at some other past time, I was ready and disposed to read; '*Domus casura*

'casura erat, the house was going to fall,' i. e. was likely to fall yesterday, or twenty years ago. And if it be united to a verb of the future tense, it does not mean future action, but a future readiness and disposition for action, or future probability of event; as, *'Lecturus ero, I shall be about to read,' i. e.* I shall be disposed to read to-morrow; *'Domus casura erit, the house will be about to fall,' i. e.* will be likely to fall at some future time. A few classical authorities will be sufficient to establish this point, *i. e.* to prove that the participle in *rus* always means something contemporary with the verb to which it is united; and consequently may be applied indifferently either to *past*, *present*, or *future* time.

The

The Participle in RUS applied to Past Time.

"Ad bellum quod *gesturus* erat
"animum intendit." JUSTIN.

"Flebat, et ardentem generum *moritura* tene-
"bat." VIRG.

"Et jam *prensulum*, jam jam mea viscera rebar
"In sua *mersulum*." OVID.

"Luridaque *arsuro* portabat membra feretro."
ID.

"Quibus erat *accessura* Macedo-
"nia." JUSTIN.

"Qui sine hac jurabat se unum nunquam vic-
"turum diem,

"Qui in sui gremio *positurum* puerum dicebat
"patris? ita

"*Obsecraturum*, ut liceret hanc uxorem ducere?"
TER.

"Quod *daturus* jam fui." ID.

"Tu *profecturus* aliò fueras." ID.

"Quod adversus servos *dimicaturi*
"videbantur." JUSTIN.

"Cyri

“Cyri regis filiam in matrimo-
nium recepit, regalibus nuptiis reg-
num *firmaturus*.” JUSTIN.

*The Participle in RUS applied to Pre-
sent Time.*

“Si *visurus* eum vivo et *venturus* in unum,
Vitam oro.” VIRG.

“Quo *applicituri*, symbolos pro-
poni, et saxis proscribi, curat.”

JUSTIN.

“Si qua fidem tanto est operi *latura* vetustas.”
VIRG.

“Antiquas *abiturus* respicit aras.” OVID.

“Quam tu rem *actura* obsecro es?” TER.

“An domi est *habiturus*?” ID.

“Vicissim parteis tuas *acturus* est.” ID.

“*Potaturus* est apud me.” ID.

*The Participle in RUS applied to Fu-
ture Time.*

— “Frustraque erit illa minata

“*Servitura* suo capitolia nostra canopd.” OV.

“Illi

“ Illi iridentes responderunt, tum
 “ id se *facturos*, quum ille, domo na-
 “ vibus proficiscens, vento aquilone
 “ venisset Lemnum.” NEPOS.

— “ Si quis tamen Hercule, si quis
 “ Forte Deo *doliturus erit*, data præmia nollet,
 “ Sed meruisse dari sciet ; invitique probabit.”
 OVID.

“ Quod inimici ejus dissidenti suos
 “ *sensus aperturi forent.*” NEPOS.

THE PARTICIPLE IN *dus*.

The participle in *dus* is generally used in a passive sense ; but, like the participle in *rus*, it does not signify real action, but *capability, fitness, duty, or obligation* of action ; *i. e.* it denotes something that ought to be done, and is always contemporary with the verb with which it is connected ; and consequently may be applied, with
 equal

equal propriety, either to *past*, *present*, or *future time*; as, ‘*Dicendum erat*, or *fuit*, it *was proper* to be said;’ ‘*Dicendum est*, it *is proper* to be said;’ ‘*Dicendum erit*, it *will be proper* to be said.’ It resembles an adjective in expressing time relatively, as it always means something contemporary with the verb to which it is joined: and it likewise resembles an adjective in not being capable of signifying time absolutely; for whether we say *flendus occidit*, or *flebilis occidit*, the sense is nearly the same, and the time expressed precisely in the same manner.

by no means

The Participle in DUS applied to Past Time.

“Hæc adeo ex illo mihi jam *speranda fuerunt*

“Tempore.”

VIRG.

Q

“Addidit

- " Addidit ætatem, nec *cognoscenda* reliquit
 " Ora mihi. OVID.
 " Ne foret hic igitur mortali semine cretus,
 " Ille Deus *faciendus erat*." ID.
 " *Miseranda* ubique facies, et ex-
 " cidio similis *erat*." JUSTIN.
 " Constatit alma Venus nulli *cernenda*." OV.
 " Quâ in re admodum fuit mili-
 " tum virtus *laudanda*." CÆSAR.
 " Ita res erat ; *faciendum fuit*." TER.
 " Sed quam *danda* neci, tam non *epulanda* fue-
 " runt." OVID.
 " Non Asiæ nomen *objiciendum*
 " Murænæ *fuit*." CICERO.
 " *Cesserunt* nitidis *habitandæ* piscibus undæ."
 OVID.
 " Quod *fuit* illis *conandum*, atque
 " omni ratione *efficiendum*." CÆSAR.
 " At Clymene postquam dixit quæcunque fu-
 " erunt
 " In tantis *dicenda* malis." OVID.
 " Mittor et ad matrem ; quæ non *hortanda*, sed
 " astu
 " *Decipienda fuit*." ID.
 The

The Participle in DUS applied to Present Time.

“Cujus ratio, etsi non valuit, tamen
“est magnoperè *laudanda*.” NEPOS.
“Nam hoc quidem *ferendum* aliquo modo est.”

TER.

“Hic non *amandus*? hiccine non *gestandus* in
“sinu est?” ID.

“Ita tempus fert, *faciendum* est.” ID.

“In Asiâ continenter vixisse, *laudandum* est.” CIC.

“Ut suâ voluntate id, quod est *faciendum*, fa-
“ciat.” TER.

“Frater est *expectandus* mihi.” ID.

“Nunc una mihi res etiam restat, quæ est *con-*
“*ficiunda*.” ID.

“Nunc gestus mihi voltusque est *capiendus* no-
“vus.” ID.

“Quantum potest, nunc *conveniendus* Formio
“est.” ID.

“Et *ducenda* indotata est?” ID.

“Nunc est *bibendum*, nunc pede libero

“*Pulsanda* tellus.” HOR.

Q.2

“*Ducendum*

"*Ducendum* ad sedes simulacrum, *orandaque*

"*Divæ*

"*Numina* conclamant."

VIRGIL.

"*Nec memoranda* tamen vobis mea facta, Pe-

"*lasgi,*

"*Esse* reor : vidistis enim. *Sua* narret Ulysses."

OVID.

"*Post* mortem quidem sensus aut

"*optandus,* aut nullus est." CIC.

"*Sic* pugnat, sic est *metuendus* Ulysses." OV.

"*Quo* in negotio tamen illa me

"*res,* judices, consolatur, quod hæc,

"*quæ* videtur esse accusatio mea,

"*non* potiùs accusatio quam defen-

"*sio* est *existimanda.*"

CIC.

The Participle in DUS applied to Future Time.

"*Vincis,* Anaxarete; neque erunt tibi tædia

"*tandem*

"*Ulla ferenda* mei."

OVID.

— "Nullique

— “Nullique *videnda*;

“Voce tamen noscar, vocem mihi fata relin-
“quent.” ID.

“Auxilia deinde singularum civi-
“tatum describuntur, sive *adjuvandus*
“eâ manu rex oppugnante aliquo
“foret, seu duce illo bellum *infern-*
“*dum*.” JUSTIN.

“Decernunt auxilia Cyro *mittenda*,
“ubi res ejus exegisset.” ID.

“Hæc porcis *comedenda relinques*.” HOR.

“Auferat hora duos eadem: nec conjugis un-
“quam

“Busta meæ videam; neq̃ sim *tumulandus* ab
“illâ.” OVID.

The participle in *dus* is frequently substituted for the gerund; in which case it deviates considerably from its usual meaning: for instead of expressing obligation, fitness, or capability of action, it expresses action itself; and is generally translated in-

*What does
the author
mean by a
gerund?*

to English by the participle in *ing*, used sometimes as a noun, and sometimes as a gerund; as ‘in *scribendis literis*, in the *writing of letters*, or ‘in *writing letters*.’

In this construction it may be applied either to past, present, or future time.

Past Time.

“In psaltriâ istâ *emendâ* * huic adjutor fuit.”

TER.

“Pisistratus paulum à *capiendâ* urbe
“abfuit.”

JUSTIN.

* In most of these cases, substantives might be used instead of participles in *dus*; for, in *psaltriæ istius emptione*, is precisely equivalent to *in psaltriâ istâ emendâ*. Nor is the participle *emendâ* more significant of time than the noun *emptione*.

“Sed

“Sed neque spatium erat *instruendi*
 “*belli*, nec tempus ad *contrahenda*
 “auxilia.” JUSTIN.

“Sed res Annibalem non diu la-
 “tuit, virum ad *prospicienda cavenda-*
 “que pericula paratum.” ID.

“Non de *regendo* sed de *augendo*
 “regno cogitavit.” ID.

“Et in *appellandis cohortandisque*
 “militibus imperatoris, et in pugnâ,
 “militis officia præstabat.” CÆS.

“Aderat *faciendis* strenua jussis. OVID.

“Crebrò enim *mutandis* locis, mul-
 “torum fidei se committebat.”

PANSA.

“Ne quam occasionem rei benè
 “*gerendæ* dimitteret, cogitabat.”

CÆSAR.

“Esse repertos aliquos principes
 “*belli inferendi*.” ID.

Q 4

“Hoc

"Hoc faciliorem huic gradum
"consulatûs *adipiscendi* reliquit."

CIC.

"Tempus rei *gerendæ* non dimi-
"sit."

NEPOS.

"Itaque ad patriam *liberandam* om-
"ni ferebatur cogitatione."

ID.

"Continuato diem noctemque
"opere in flumine *avertendo*, huc jam
"rem deduxerat."

CÆSAR.

"Quum Dion ejus *audiendi* cupi-
"ditate flagraret."

NEPOS.

"Cum Lentulus consul ad *aperi-*
"*endum* ærarium venisset ad pecu-
"niam Pompeio ex S. C. *proferen-*
"*dam*."

CÆSAR.

Present Time.

—"Ego in eum incidi infelix locum,
"Ut neque mihi ejus sit *amittendi* nec *reti-*
"*nendi* copia."

TER.

"Omnibus

“Omnibus hibernis Cæsaris *oppug-*
“*nandis* hunc esse dictum diem.”

CÆSAR.

“Ambiorigem ostentant fidei fa-
“ciendæ causâ.” ID.

“His enim ipsis *legendis* redeo in
“memoriam mortuorum.” CIC.

“Ait uterque, tibi potestatem ejus *habendæ* se
“dare.” TER.

“Summa ei belli *administrandi* per-
“mittitur.” CÆSAR.

“Probat rem senatus de *mittendis*
“legatis.” ID.

“Neque *docendi* Cæsaris propin-
“quis ejus spatium datur, nec tribunis
“plebis sui periculi *deprecandi*; neque
“etiam extremi juris intercessione
“*retinendi*, quod L. Sylla reliquerat,
“facultas tribuitur.” ID.

“Tuam, quidem, et in *agendis*
“nostris

“ nostris rebus, et in consiliis *ineundis*,
“ mihi que *dandis*, in ipsis literis quas
“ mittis, benevolentiam, diligentiam,
“ prudentiam mirificè diligo.” CIC.

“ Illi ipsi philosophi, etiam in illis
“ libellis quos de *contemnendâ* gloriâ
“ scribunt, nomen suum inscribunt.”

Id.

Future Time.

“ Legionem in Togatam Galliam
“ mittit, ad colonias civium Roma-
“ norum *tuendas*. Ipse ad *devastandos*
“ *depopulandosque* fines Ambiorigis
“ proficiscitur.” Pansa.

“ Ne qua rursus novorum confi-
“ liorum *capiendorum* Belgis facultas
“ daretur.” Id.

“ Ad *obsidendos* oppidanos rever-
“ titur.” Id.

“ Eodem

“ Eodem tempore acerrimè præli-
 “ antur, ut ab incendio *restringendo*
 “ dimicatione et periculo deterreant
 “ Romanos.” Pansa.

“ Neque enim jam mihi licet, ne-
 “ que est integrum, ut meum labo-
 “ rem hominum periculis *sublevandis*
 “ non impertiam.” Cic.

“ Neque me domum nunc reciperem, ni mihi
 “ esset spes ostensa

“ Hujusce *habendæ* : sed ubinam Geta inve-
 “ nire possum, ut

“ Rogem, quod tempus *conveniendi* patris me
 “ capere jubeat ?” Ter.

“ Legionem in Togatam Galliam
 “ mittit, ad colonias civium Roma-
 “ norum *tuendas*.” Pansa.

“ Ne occasio detur Lyfandro nos-
 “ tri *opprimendi* exercitûs.” Nepos.

“ Cum his agit, ne initium *infe-*
 “ *rendi* belli à Massiliensibus oriatur.”

CÆsar.

“ Nam

"Nam velle se cum eo colloqui
 "de *partiendo* regno." NEPOS.

*Different Participles used to signify
 Actions of the same Time.*

"Turnus, ut *antevolans* tardum præcesserat
 "agmen,

"Viginti lectis equitum *comitatus*." VIRGIL.

"Interim Pisandrus, ab Agesilao
 " *proficiscente* dux patriæ *relictus*, in-
 "gentem classem summis viribus in-
 "struit, fortunam belli *tentaturus*.

"Nec non et Conon, tunc primum
 "cum hostium exercitu *concursumus*,
 "magnâ curâ ordinat suos." JUSTIN.

"Sed Lacedæmonii securis *insidi-*
 " *antes*, absentiam Arcadum *speculati*,
 "castellum eorum expugnant, occu-
 " *patoque* præsidium imponunt." ID.

"Stabat

" Stabat acerba *fremens* ingentem *nixus* in haf-
" tam

" *Æneas*, magno juvenum et *mærentis* Iuli

" Concurſu lacrymiſque immobilis." VIRGIL.

" Non hæc Evandro de te promiſſa parenti

" *Diſcedens* dederam : cum me *complexus euntem*

" Mitteret in magnum imperium ; *metuensque*
" moneret." ID.

" Neque prius abſceſſerunt, quam

" magnâ cæde *factâ*, multiſque *occis*,

" fortiffimè ipſum Epaminondam

" *pugnantem*, ſparo eminus *percuſſum*,

" concidere viderunt." NEPOS.

" Talia dicta dabat ; clavumque *affixus* et hæ-
" *rens*,

" Nuſquam amittebat, oculosque ſub aſtra te-
" nebat." VIRGIL.

" *Æneas* mœſto *defixus* lumina vultu

" Ingreditur, *linquens* antrum." ID.

" *Incluſas* animas, ſuperumque ad lumen *ituras*,

" Luſtrabat ſtudio *recolens*." ID.

" Intereà videt *Æneas* in valle *reducta*

" *Secluſum* nemus, et virgulta *ſonantia* ſylvis."

ID.

——" Tamen

——“ Tamen illic vivere vellem,
 “ *Oblitusque meorum, obliviscendus et illis,*
 “ Neptunum procul è terrâ spectare *furentem.*”
 HOR.

“ *ſacens* inter Cyrenas et Ægyptum,
 “ in morbum *implicitus* decessit.”
 NEPOS.

“ Hic rem Romanam magno *turbante* tumultu
 “ Siftet eques : sternet Pœnos, Gallumque re-
 “ bellem :

“ Tertiaque arma Patri suspendet *capta* Qui-
 “ rino.” VIRGIL.

“ Altera, *candenti perfecta nitens* elephanto.” ID.

—— “ *Mensam succinea tremensque*
 “ Pōnit anus.” OVID.

“ Qui *audendum* aliquid pro pa-
 “ triâ, et pro salute communi, etiam
 “ cum periculo, *ratus adunatis* exuli-
 “ bus, castellum Phulen Atticorum
 “ finium occupat.” JUSTIN.

“ *Suspectus* à rege, et ipse eum *sus-*
 “ *piciens.*” SALLUST.

“ Numidæ,

"Numidæ, nihil hostile *metuentes*,
 "multi oppido *egressi*." SALLUST.

— " *Factanti* talia Cæneus
 " *Extentum* cursu *missâ* latus eruit hastâ,
 "Qua vir equo *commissus* erat." OVID.

— "Sed nulla *timenda*,
 "Nullaque erat nostrô *factura* in corpore vul-
 "nus." ID.

"Namque diu *luctans*, lentoque in stirpe mo-
 "ratus,

"Viribus haud ullis valuit discludere morfus
 "Roboris Æneas. Dum nititur acer, et instat,
 "Rursus in aurigæ faciem *mutata* Metisci
 "Procurrit, fratrique enssem dea Daunia reddit.
 "Quod Venus audaci nymphæ *indignata* licere
 "Acceffit, telumque altâ ab radice revellit.
 "Olli sublimes, armis animisque *refecti*,
 "Hic gladio *fidens*, hic acer et arduus hastâ,
 "Assistunt contra, certamine Martis anhelî."

VIRGIL.

"Hoc nuncio *commotus*, *sperans* se
 "etiam pecuniâ et potentiâ *instans*
 "periculum posse depellere, domum
 "rediit." NEPOS.

"Olym-

"Olympias certè *fugienti percussori*
 "equos quoque *preparatos* habuit."

JUSTIN.

"Quid! credebas *dormienti* hæc tibi *confecturos*
 "deos?"

TER.

"Illuccine *interminata* sum hinc *abiens* tibi?"

ID.

"Quia *egens relicta* est misera." ID.

"Invenies aliquo cum percussore *jacentem*,

"*Permissum* nautis, aut furibus, aut fugitivis."

JUVENAL.

"*Prospiciens* genitor, cæloque *investus* aperto,

"Flectit equos, curruque *volans* dat lora se-
 "cundo." VIRGIL.

— "Graviter *commotus*, et alto

"*Prospiciens*, summâ placidum caput extulit
 "undâ." ID.

"Multi illam petiere; illa *aversata* petentes,

"Impatiens experisq; viri, nemorum avia lus-
 "trat." OVID.

"Talia perstabat *memorans*, *fixusque* manebat."

VIRGIL.

— "Quam primo aquilone relinquet

"*Perfidus*, alta *petens*, *abductâ* virgine, prædo."

VIRGIL.

"Uxorem

"Uxorem demus ; spero consuetudine et

"Conjugio liberali *devinctum*, Creme,

"Dehinc facile ex illis sese *emersurum* malis."

TER.

"Mulcet aquas rector pelagi ; supraque pro-
"fundum,

"*Extantem*, atque humeros innato murice *tec-*
"tum,

"Cæruleum Tritona vocat." OVID.

"Idque semel Dis *indignantibus ausus*, &c." ID.

—"Geminos huic ubera circum,

"Ludere *pendentes* pueros, et lambere matrem

"Impavidos : illam tereti cervice *reflexam*

"Mulcere alternos, et corpora fingere linguâ."

ID.

The names of things (especially terms of art) should never be changed without absolute necessity : therefore, though Latin participles are not more significant of time than adjectives, yet they may very well retain the names by which they have usually been called.

The participle in *us* may be denominated the present participle ; be-

R

cause

cause it always denotes something contemporary with, *i. e.* present with respect to, the verb to which it is joined.

The participle in *us* may be called preterperfect ; because it always signifies a perfect action, and most frequently an action antecedent to the verb it is connected with.

But what shall we say to the participles in *rus* and *dus* ? We have seen that they are not in the least significant of absolute time, and that their relative time is always the same with that of the verbs to which they are joined. In what sense then can we call them future participles ? I answer—Those participles do not in general signify actions, but circumstances of actions ; such as readiness, preparation, probability, fitness, duty, obligation, &c. Now, though the
cir-

circumstances denoted by these participles are contemporary, or present, with respect to the verbs to which they are united, yet the actions themselves, to which these circumstances have a reference, are always subsequent to the time of those verbs. Thus, *scripturus* denotes a readiness and disposition for writing, and *scribendum*, something that ought to be written at any time, either past, present, or future, in conformity to the time of the verb with which they are connected; but the action of writing, to which these circumstances have a reference, is always future with respect to that verb. On this account, therefore, they may be called future participles.

The participles in *rus* and *dus* are frequently used in forming *infinitives*; as *scripturum esse*, *scripturum fuisse*,
scriben-

scribendum esse, scribendum fuisse.

From the manner in which these infinitives are expressed in some grammars, incautious readers may possibly be led to suspect that *esse* and *fuisse*, in this construction, are synonymous terms ; but, I believe, they are never used as such by the Romans. For, though all the tenses of the verb *sum* may be united with these participles, yet they retain their separate and distinct meanings as fully as they do when they are joined to adjectives.

Infinitives compounded with the participle in *dus*, always include the idea of obligation, duty, fitness, &c. and therefore are very different in meaning from *scriptum iri*, which only denotes simple futurity, or more properly probability of event.

THE END.



